Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI
4

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Ryoko Kui

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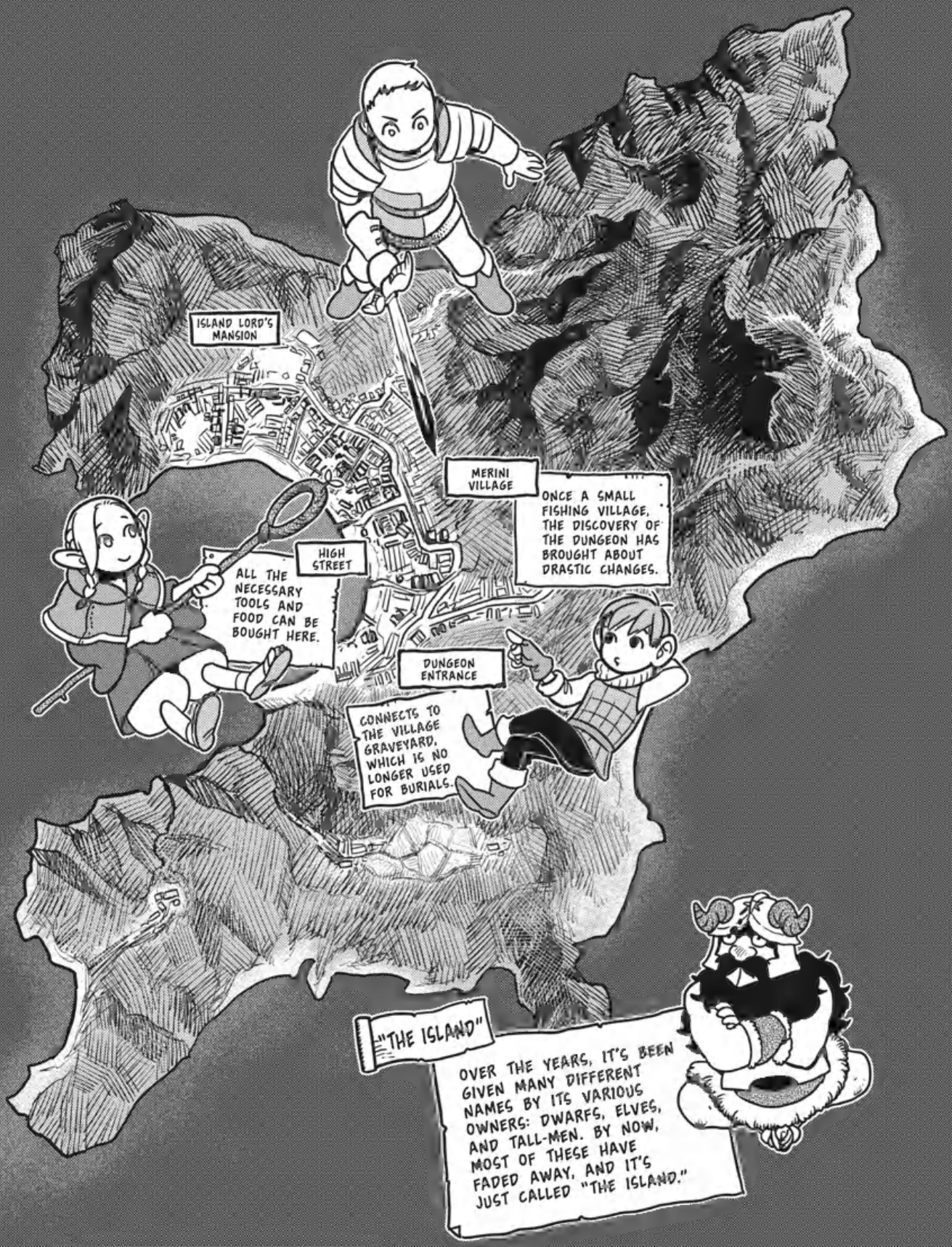
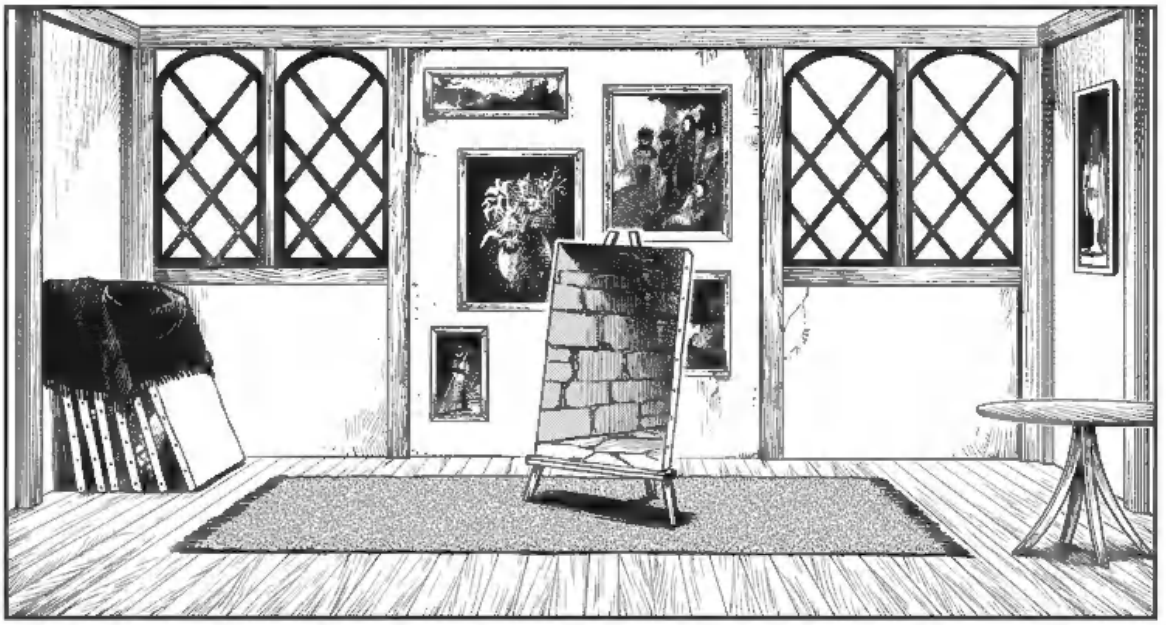
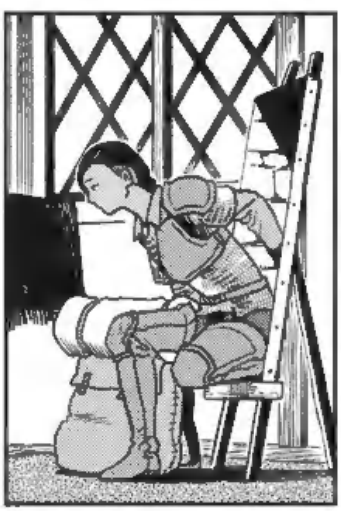



# 22. ABOVEGROUND





ストン
SUTON
(TUMP)

NU
(ZLOOP)
ぬる

NNGH.
MY INSIDES ARE CHURNING.

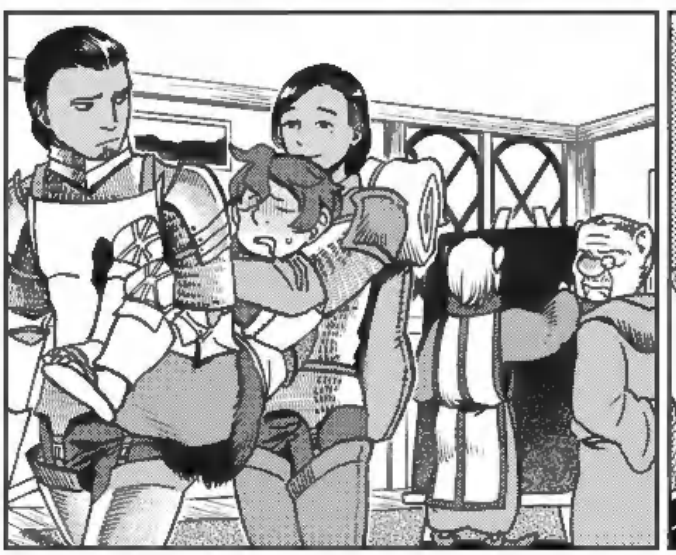
WAAAH...
ゾク
ゾク
ゾク
ZOWA
ZOWA
(SHUDDER)
ZOWA

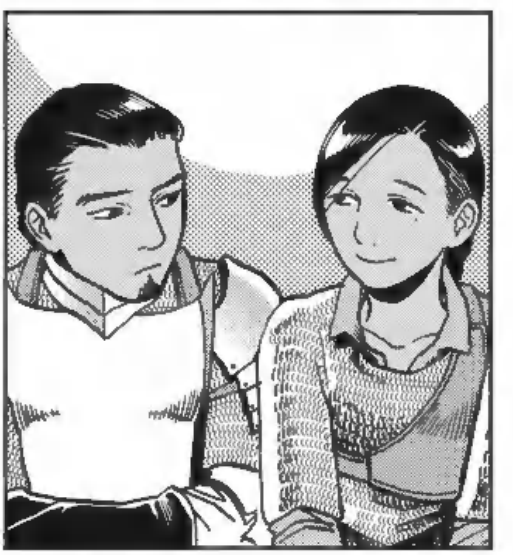
UUH...

PUT NAMARI TO BED IN A GUEST ROOM.
PAYMENT CAN WAIT UNTIL HER STOMACH'S SETTLED DOWN.

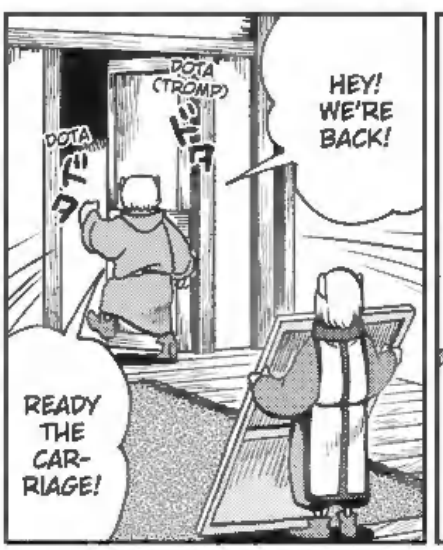
KIKI.
KAKA.

BLRGH...

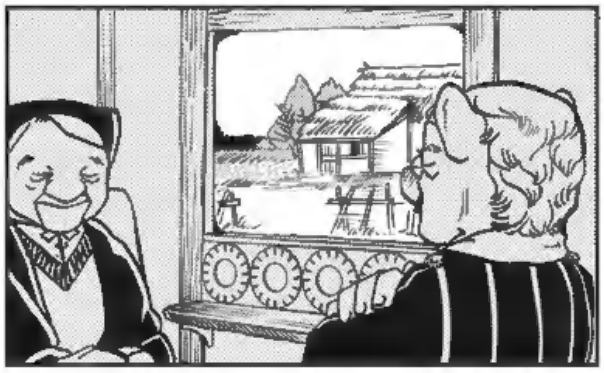


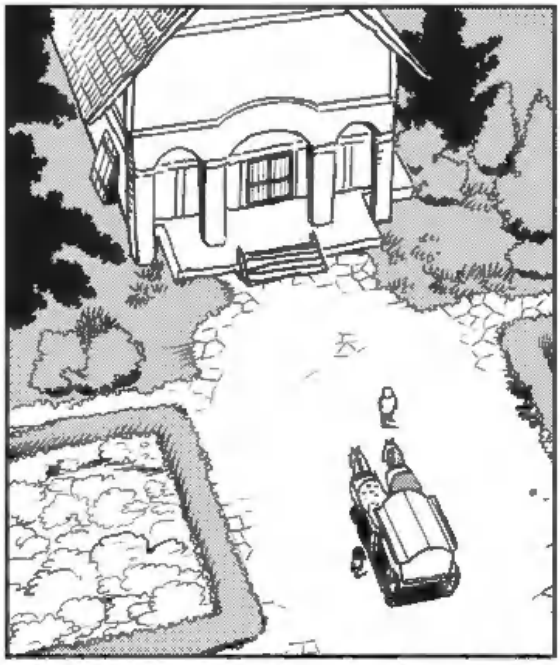


ALL THIS TEARING AROUND...


DOTA
DOTA (TROMP)
HEY! WE'RE BACK!
READY THE CAR-RIAGE!

SHALL I PUT THE KETTLE ON FOR TEA?
NO, WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT AWAY.



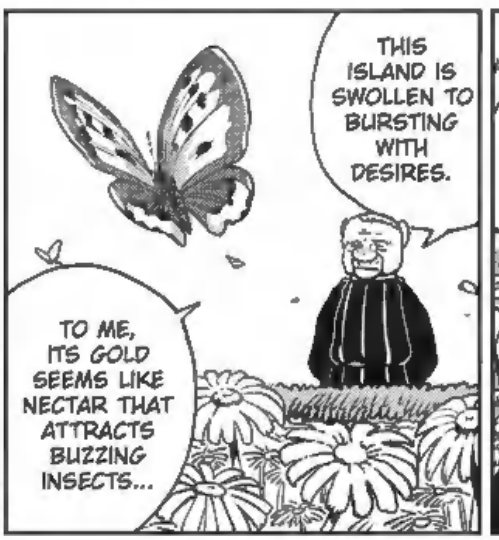


THE VILLAGE IS PROSPERING TOO.

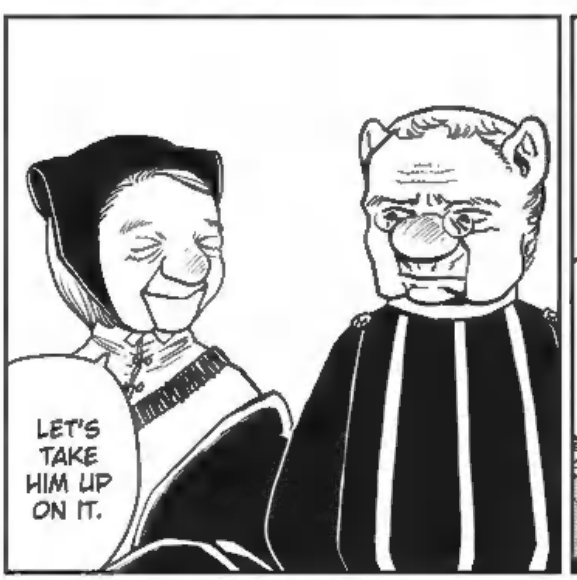
BEFORE THE DUNGEON WAS DISCOVERED, THEY DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE MANSERVANT.
THIS PLACE GETS FANCIER EVERY TIME WE VISIT.

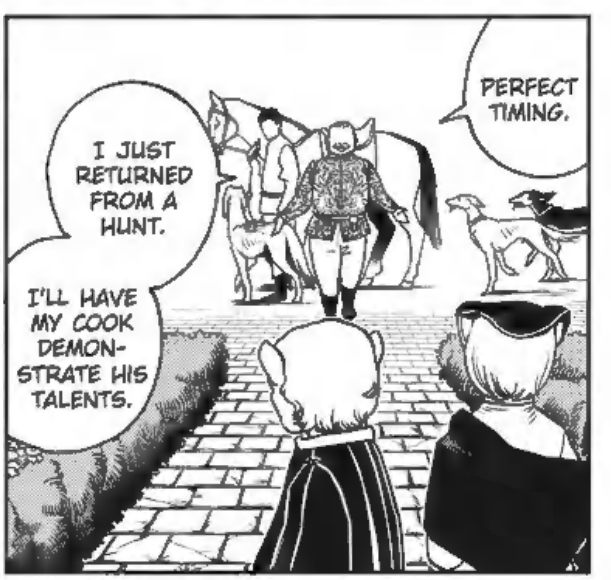
THE DAISIES ARE PRETTY, AREN'T THEY?

LORD TANSU!


THIS ISLAND IS SWOLLEN TO BURSTING WITH DESIRES.
TO ME, ITS GOLD SEEMS LIKE NECTAR THAT ATTRACTS BUZZING INSECTS...

I DUNNO ABOUT THAT.
THE DUNGEON CAN BE CREDITED WITH MORE THAN JUST HARM.


LET'S TAKE HIM UP ON IT.


I JUST RETURNED FROM A HUNT.
PERFECT TIMING.
I'LL HAVE MY COOK DEMONSTRATE HIS TALENTS.

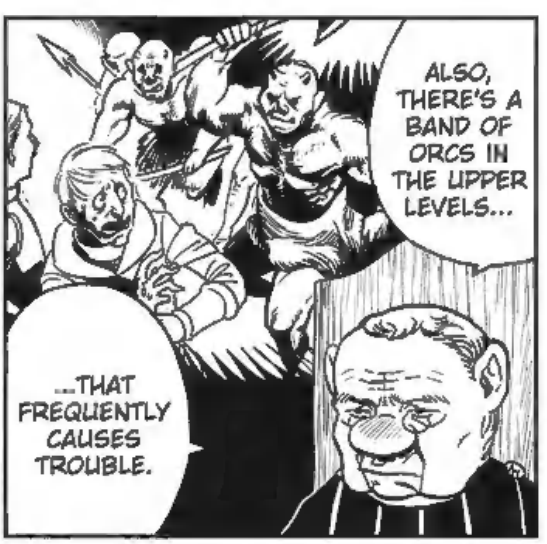
AND? HOW WAS IT?

MOST OF THE TREASURE HAS BEEN STRIPPED UNTIL THE THIRD FLOOR.
OUTLAWS HAVE CONGRE-GATED IN MORE AREAS.

...IT'S GOTTEN ROUGHER DOWN THERE.

ONE ITEM OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IS THAT...

I'D RECOMMEND SENDING IN SOLDIERS OR PUTTING A BOUNTY ON THEM.
HMM.

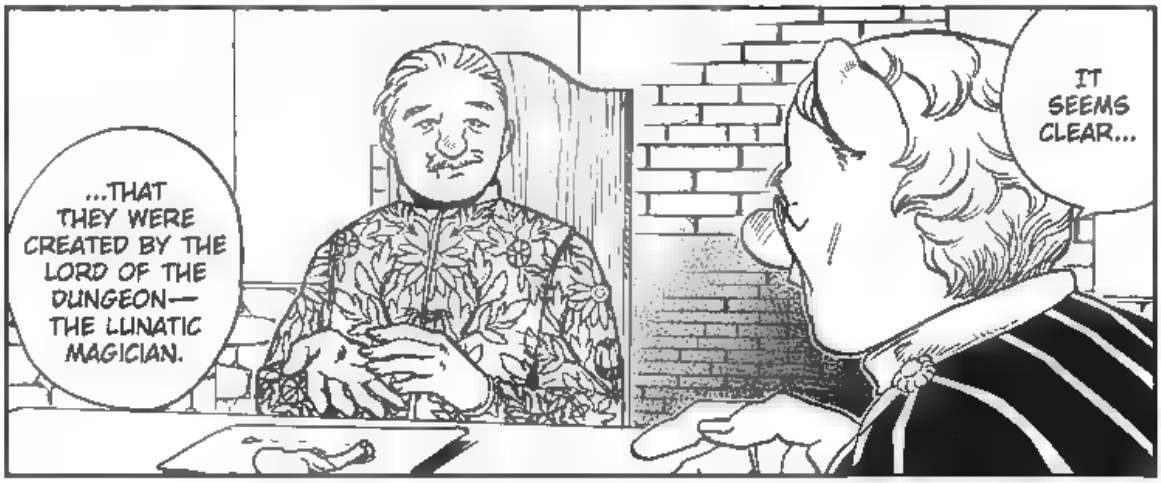

ALSO, THERE'S A BAND OF ORCS IN THE UPPER LEVELS...
...THAT FREQUENTLY CAUSES TROUBLE.

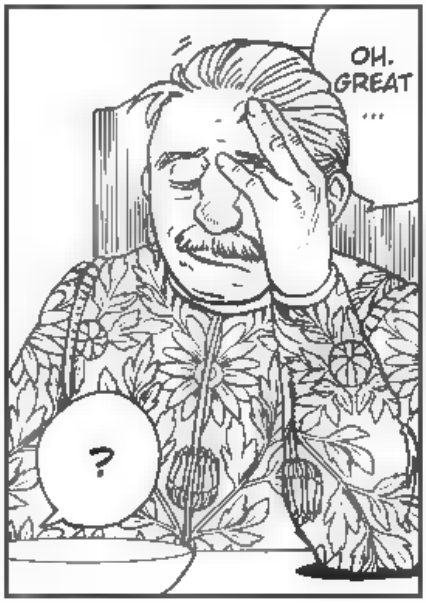
DWARFS, EH!?
BLASTED NUISANCES.
THEY MAY HAVE BROKEN THROUGH...
...FROM AN OLD DWARF MINE SHAFT. ORCS LIVE IN HOLES LIKE THOSE.
NOW WHERE DID THEY CREEP IN FROM?
LONG AGO, WHEN THE ELVES AND DWARFS SPLIT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND FOUGHT...
...THEY SAY THE DWARFS LURKED HERE, WAITING FOR THE ELVES.
THEY'RE AS BAD AS MOLES.
THERE ARE HOLES EVERYWHERE, NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU BLOCK OFF.
THAT RUMOR'S HARDLY CREDIBLE.
THEY SAY SURVIVING DWARF TRIBES ARE WHY THE DUNGEON'S STILL EXPAN-DING.
...UNTIL THEY SWALLOWED UP THE GOLDEN CITY AND MADE A DUNGEON OUT OF IT.
EVEN AFTER THE WAR, THEY KEPT DIGGING HOLES...

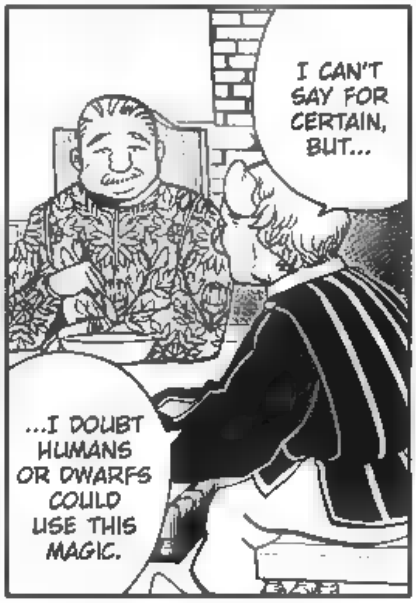
THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANYONE ELSE HAVING ALTERED THEM.

THEY'RE IN ELVISH, LIKE THE OTHERS.
THE HAND-WRITING SEEMS TO BE THE SAME TOO.

GUI CRUSHD
THESE ARE THE MAGIC CIRCLES I COPIED ON THIS TRIP.


IT SEEMS CLEAR...
...THAT THEY WERE CREATED BY THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON— THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.

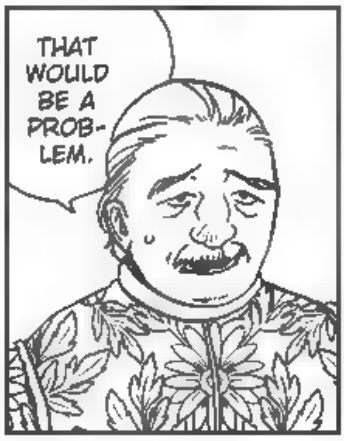

OH. GREAT ...
?


I CAN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN, BUT...
...I DOUBT HUMANS OR DWARFS COULD USE THIS MAGIC.

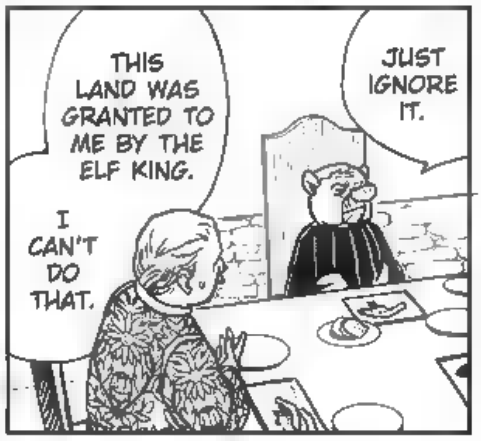
THE LORD'S AN ELF?

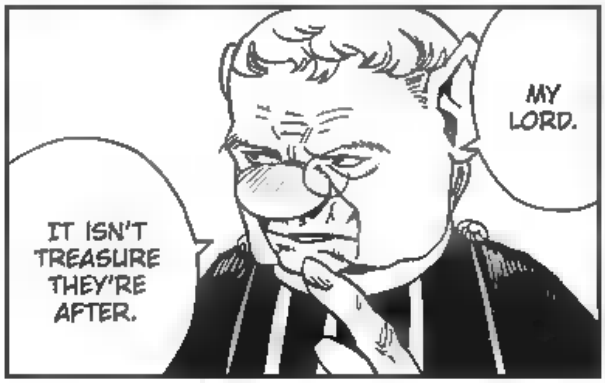
THEY STOLE MORE THAN ENOUGH DWARF TERRITORY!
WHAT SELFISHNESS!
AREN'T THEY THE ONES WHO GAVE IT TO HUMANS!?

I GOT A LETTER FROM THE WESTERN ELVES THE OTHER DAY.
"THE DUNGEON ■ OURS," IT SAID. "RETURN IT."


THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM.

THEY'LL TAKE YOUR WHOLE ISLAND.

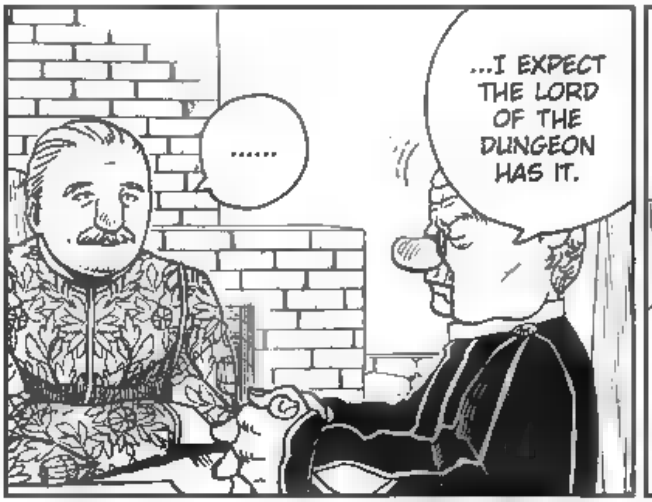

THIS LAND WAS GRANTED TO ME BY THE ELF KING.
JUST IGNORE IT.
I CAN'T DO THAT.


MY LORD.
IT ISN'T TREASURE THEY'RE AFTER.

THERE MUST STILL BE A VAST TREASURE SLEEPING IN THAT DUNGEON...

IT'S THE DUNGEON'S SPELL OF IMMORTALITY.

DAN (THUMP)
LISTEN TO ME!
WE MUST UNLOCK THE DUNGEON'S SECRETS BEFORE THE ELVES DO.
SO COPY AND RESEARCH ALL THE MAGIC CIRCLES, THEN?
IF THOSE MYSTERIES ARE SOLVED...
...THEIR VALUE WILL PUT GOLD TO SHAME.
THE SOUL-BINDING MAGIC STILL HOLDS MANY MYSTERIES.
THAT IS WHAT YOU MUST FIND.
A SPELL THIS ENORMOUS IS [redacted] TO [redacted] RECORDED SOME-WHERE!
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE [redacted] SPELL, LET THEM TAKE THE DUNGEON [redacted] ANYTHING THEY WANT.
OR RATHER, THEY'LL KNEEL WHEN THEY SPEAK TO YOU.
W-WILL THEY REALLY?
ONCE WE GET THAT RECORD...
...THE ELVES WILL FINALLY TREAT US AS EQUALS.


.....
...I EXPECT THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON HAS IT.

WHERE IS IT, THEN?
WELL, NATURALLY...

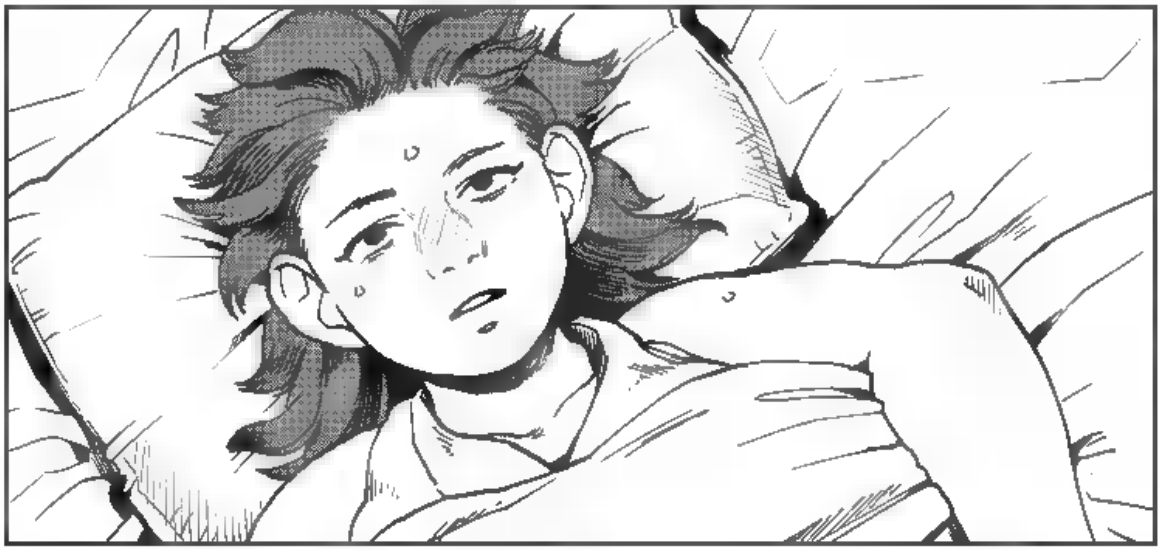
...ALL RIGHT. I'LL PUT A BOUNTY ON THE ORCS.

DON'T SKIMP ON PAYING OUT FOR MONSTER SLAYINGS AND DUNGEON ITEMS.
DON'T SAVE YOUR MONEY. PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT.

I SHOULD PROVIDE STEADY SUPPORT FOR EXPLORERS, THEN.
EXACTLY.

WHAT WAS HIS NAME? LAIOS?
HE WAS A SKILLED ADVENTURER, BUT...
...I WONDER HOW FAR THEY'LL GET.

WHAT SHOULD I TELL THE ELVES?
WE'LL HELP YOU BUY TIME.

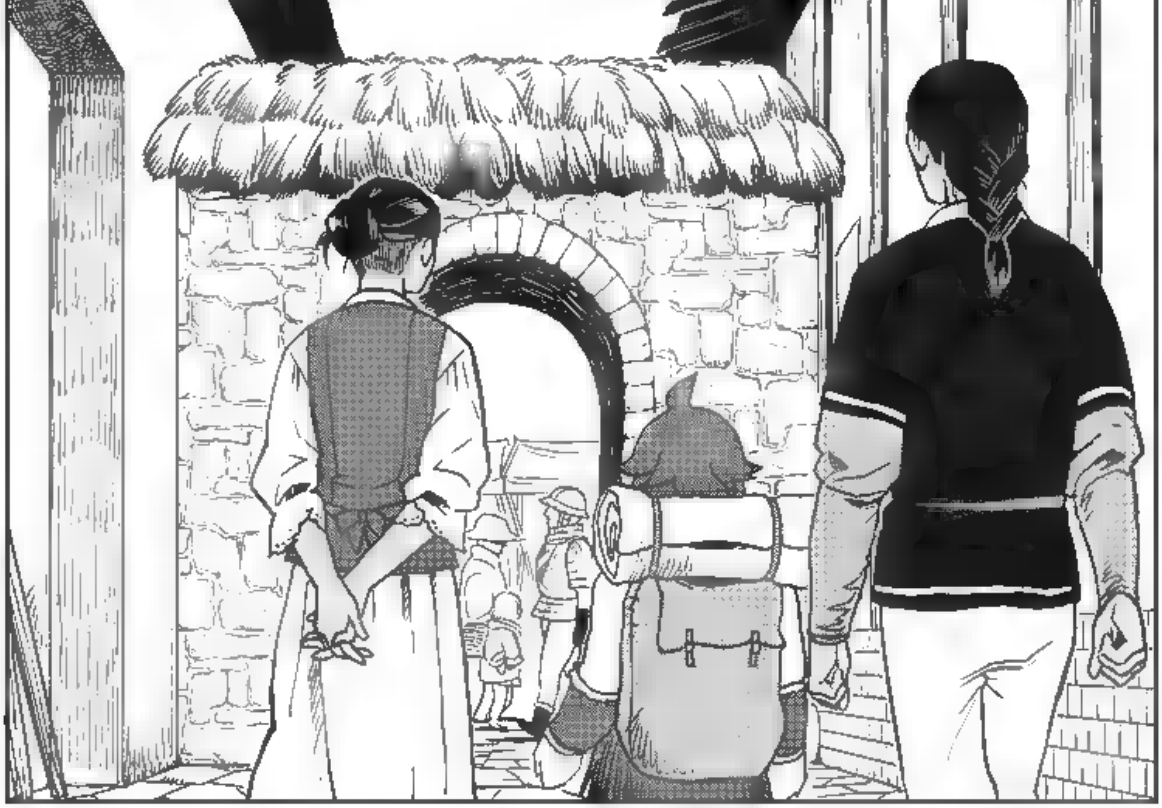


OH.
WHERE'S MY AX!?

UNH...
WHERE AM I?

GOOD MORNING, NAMARI.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

SHALL I OPEN THE WINDOW?
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY.
WHAT TIME IS IT?
DWUH...
IT'S MORNING.
MONEY.
THE TANSUS ARE OUT RUNNING AN ERRAND.
THEY LEFT THIS FOR YOU.
YOUR THINGS ARE THERE.
WE'LL WALK YOU TO THE AVENUE.
TH-THANKS...
...FOR HELPING ME.
...BUT HE HOPES TO HIRE YOU AGAIN.
HE SAYS IT WILL BE A LITTLE WHILE...
THIS IS MORE THAN WE AGREED ON.

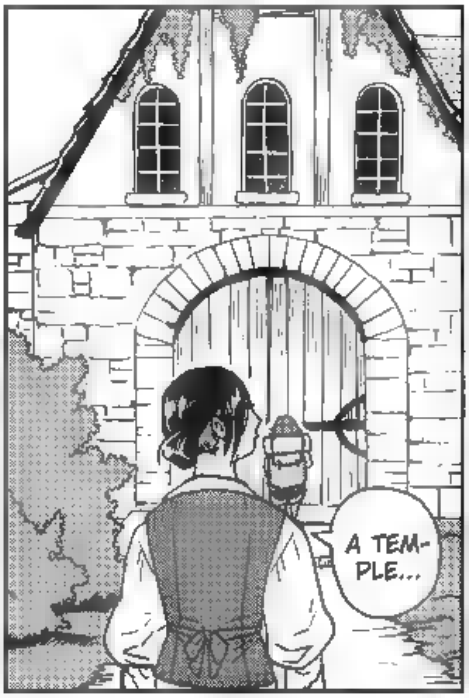


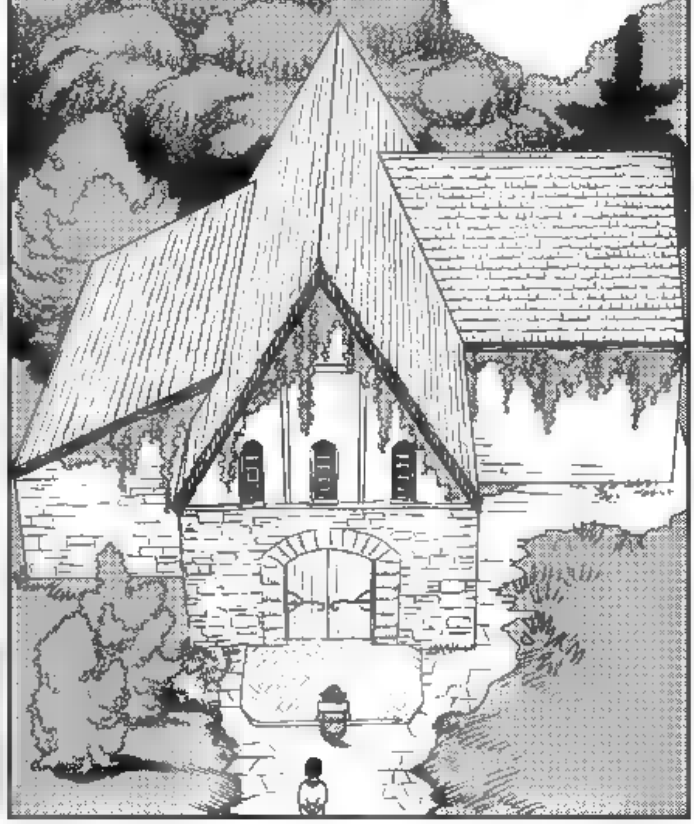
NO, NO. I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS NEARBY.
...WHY?
YOU'RE GOING IN AGAIN?

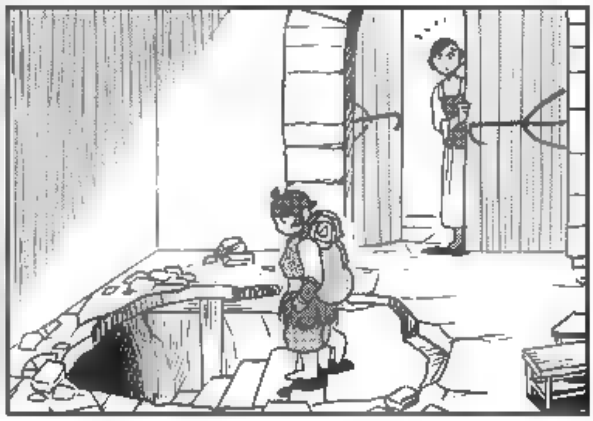
DO YOU HAVE A HOUSE? OR LODGINGS?
UH, NO.
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE DUNGEON.

YOU'RE COMING WITH?

BUSINESS?
BUSINESS...

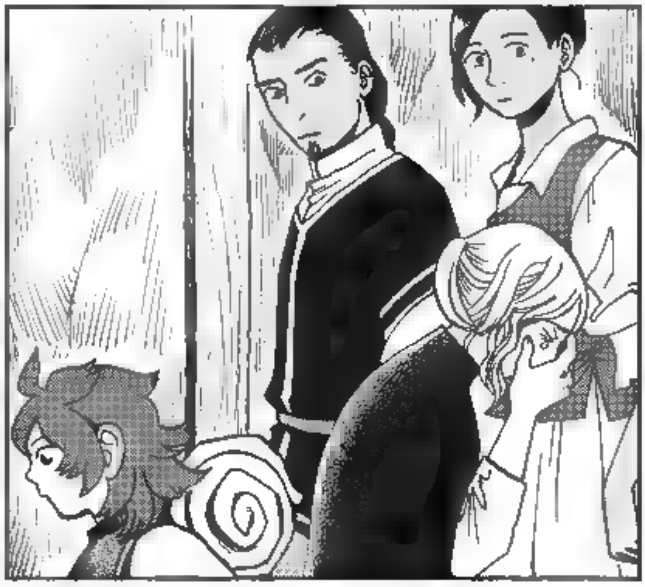

A TEM-
PLE...

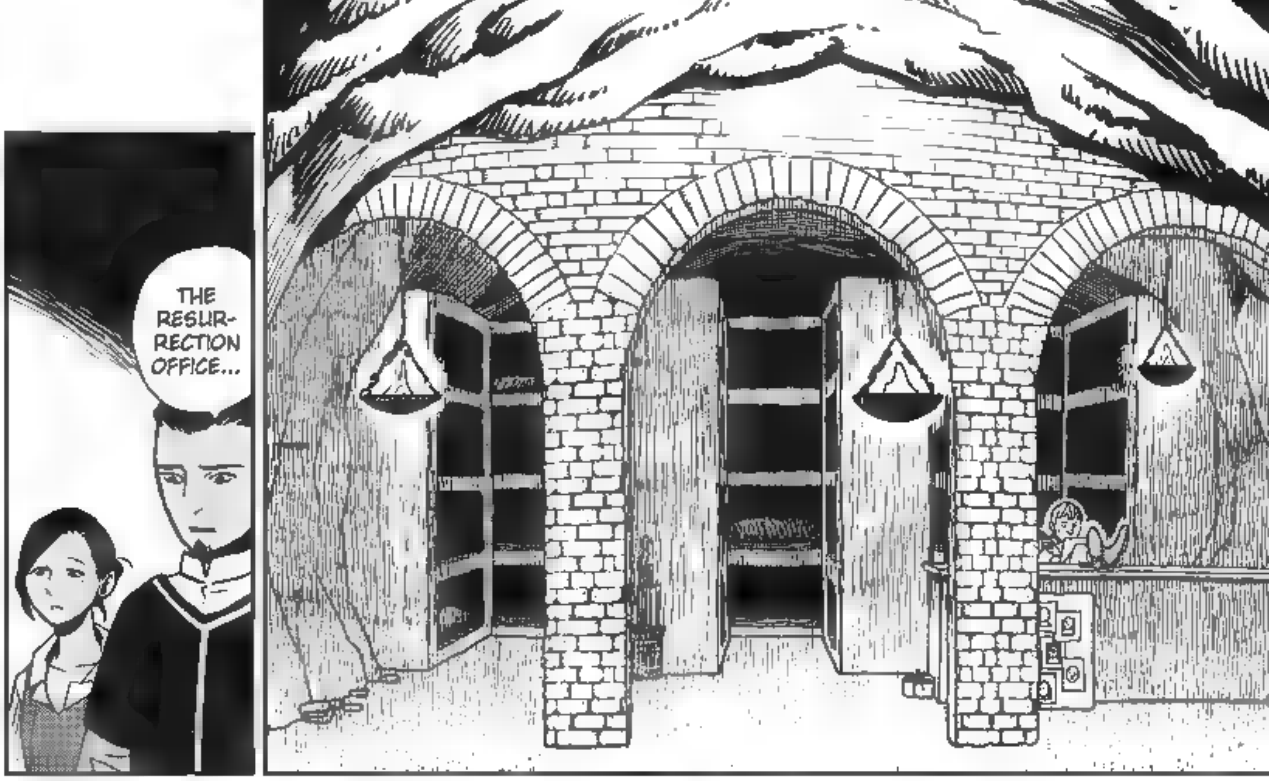


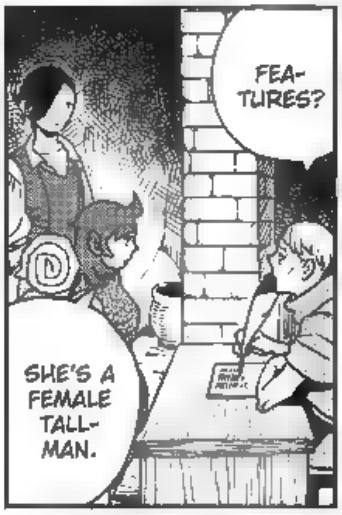


UGH.

GII
(CREAK)
ギィ...




THE RESUR-RECTION OFFICE...


FEA-TURES?
SHE'S A FEMALE TALL-MAN.

SO WHAT'S UP TODAY? LOST ITEM? MISSING PERSON?
I HEARD YOU LEFT LAIOS'S GROUP. THAT TRUE?
PER-SON.

OH-HO.
NA-MARI!

GO GET YOUR EYES CHECKED!
LIKE I CAN TELL OTHER RACES' AGES!?

...TEENS TO FORTIES?
HOLD IT. YOU MEAN LAIOS'S KID SISTER?
SHE'S TWENTY OR SO.

LIGHT-BROWN HAIR, ABOUT THIS LONG.
HER AGE IS...

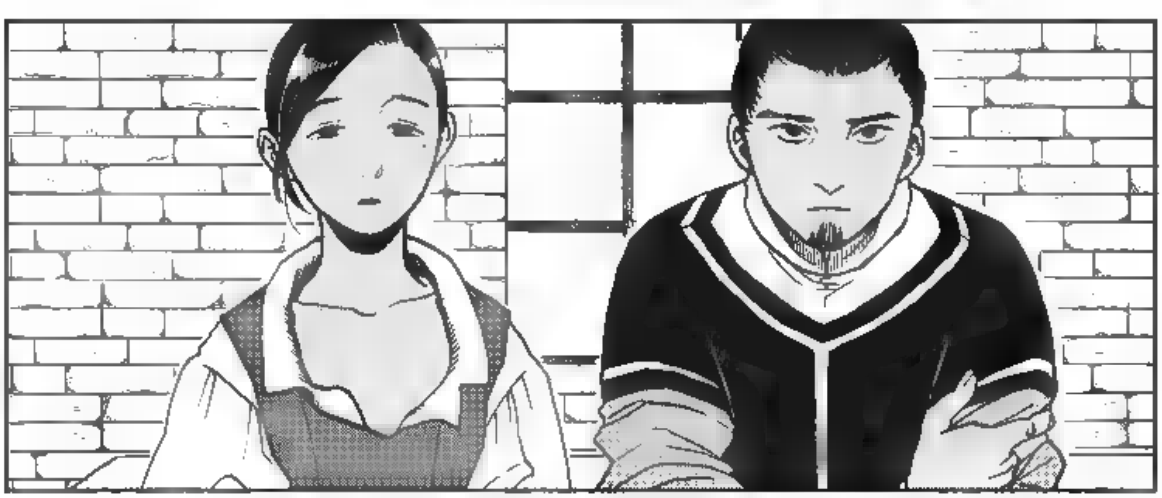
WE'VE GOT ONE THAT'S GENDER UN-KNOWN.
WANT TO TAKE A LOOK?
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT BURNED ONE?
IT'S HERE.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY CORPSES LIKE THAT, BUT...
...OH.
YEAH.
I HOPE YOU FIND HER.
PHEW...
THE ARMOR'S WRONG.
THOSE DON'T COME OVER FROM THE CONTINENT OFTEN.
PUT IT BACK GENTLY.
GENTLY...
IF THEY TRIED, THEY'D JUST FAIL.
THEY'LL NEED A REAL EXPERT MAGICIAN TO LOOK AT IT.
WHY DON'T THEY REVIVE THAT BODY?
TOO DAMAGED.

I SEE...
.....
(FURU (SHAKE)
FURU
YOU GUYS HAVEN'T USED A REVIVIFIER BEFORE?
NO, HUH?
WELL, YOU DO HAVE THE OLD GUY.
THIS PLACE HAS GREAT ALE.
HUNGRY?
LET'S TAKE A SIDE TRIP.
AHEM.
SO LISTEN ...
YOU SURE LIKE LONG LEGS, HUH?
THEN IS THIS YOUR NEW GUY!?
OOH! NO WAY!
YOU'RE GIVING FOLKS THE WRONG IDEA!!
YEAH.
DID YOU FINALLY SPLIT WITH LAIOS? REALLY?
HM!? IF IT ISN'T NAMARI!

BUT IF YOU LOSE MORE THAN ONE-THIRTEENTH OF YOUR BODY...
...OR GET CARBONIZED, THE SUCCESSFUL RESURRECTION RATE PLUMMETS.
STAB WOUNDS AND SLASHES ARE EASY TO HEAL.
EVEN IF YOU'RE CUT IN HALF, THEY CAN STICK YOU BACK TOGETHER.
JUST BECAUSE MR. TANSU CAN REVIVE YOU, DON'T THINK YOU'RE SAFE.
CRAP.
AH...
BUT IF THEY SHATTER, YOU HAVE TO FIND ALL OF 'EM, SO IT'S BAD.
WHAT ABOUT PETRIFACTION?
WE KNOW HOW PETRIFACTION SPELLS WORK, SO THAT'S EASIER.
IT'S TRICKY BECAUSE THE SOULS MINGLE.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, THE PERSONALITIES CAN GET MIXED UP TOO.
IN THE UPPER LEVELS, POSSESSION'S THE BIG DANGER.
YOU HEAR ABOUT ADVENTURERS GETTING POSSESSED BY GHOSTS AND TURNING INTO GHOULS.

BUT THAT'S WHEN THE DANGER'S WORST.
THE LONGER YOU'RE ■ THE DUNGEON, THE LESS YOU FEEL IT.
IF YOU GET WIPED OUT IN A PLACE WHERE NO ONE EVER GOES, THAT'S IT.
"EVEN IF I DIE, IT'LL BE FINE," YOU THINK. "I'LL COME BACK."

SO DON'T FORGET YOUR FEAR.
ALWAYS THINK ABOUT STAYING ALIVE, NO MATTER WHAT.



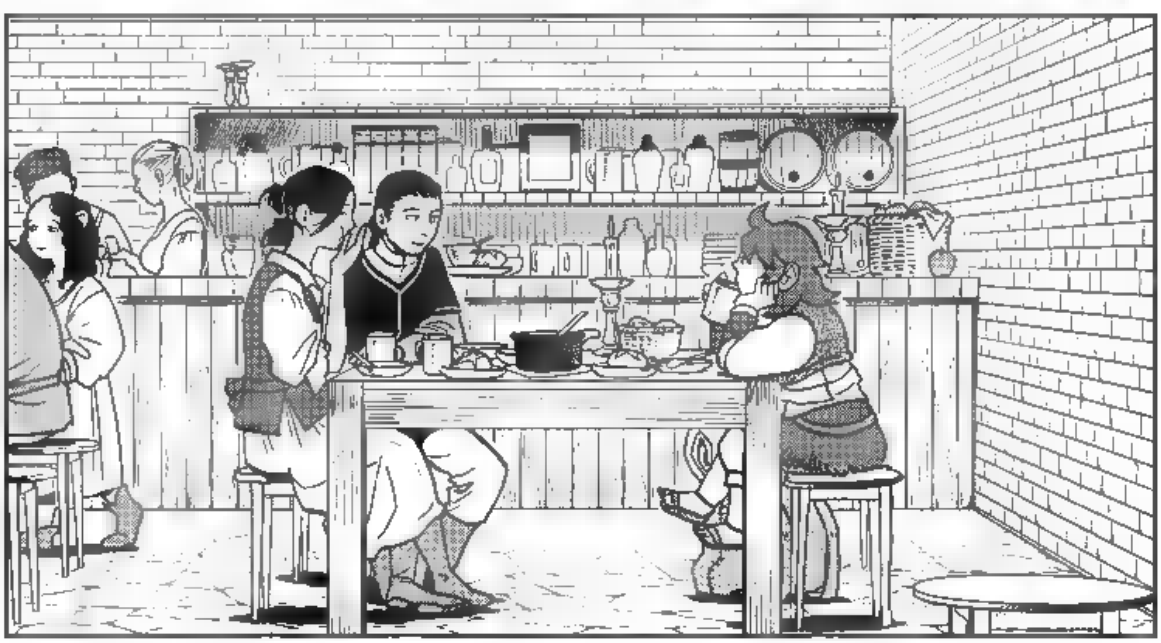
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, AND I'M LOOKING FOR YOU...
...I'LL NEED TO KNOW.
WERE YOU LISTENING TO ME!?
HOW OLD ARE YOU, NAMARI?
TWENTY.
TWENTY...
NOT SURE IF THAT'S YOUNG OR NOT.
RIGHT. YEAH.
OH...
I'M SIXTY-ONE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?
WELL, UH...
IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY.
I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT BLOOD RELATIVES, RIGHT?
HOW ARE YOU AND THEY RELATED?
AND GRANDMA'S 204!
BY THE WAY, GRANDPA IS 210.
THEY'RE AWFULLY PEPPY.
I HAD BEEN WONDERING...

EAT LOTS AND LOTS, OKAY?
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!

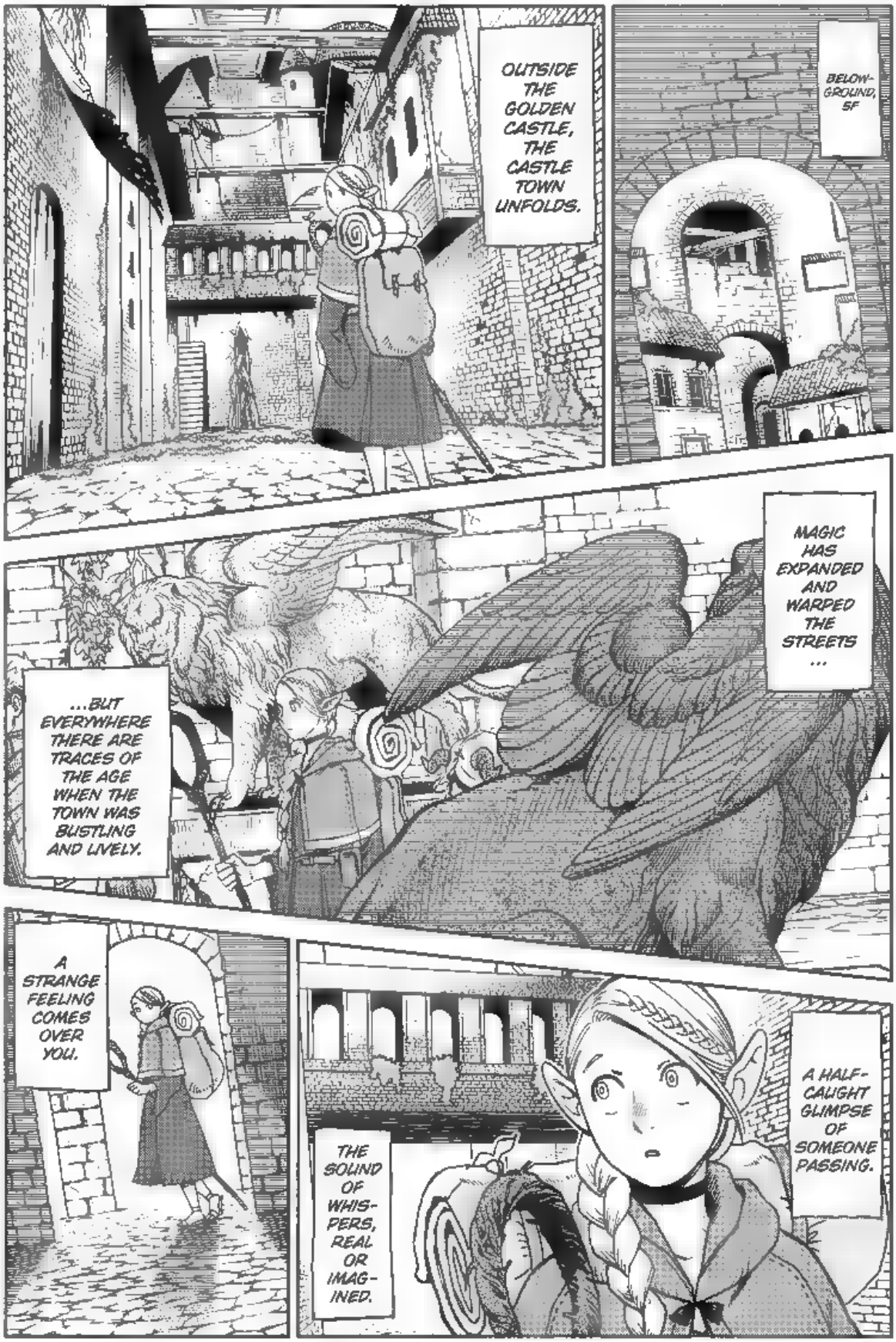
TODAY'S OUR DAY OFF.
TAKE YOUR TIME AND TELL ME ABOUT IT.

KAKA, GIMME THE PLATES.
IF YOU WANT ANYTHING ELSE, JUST ORDER IT, KIKI.

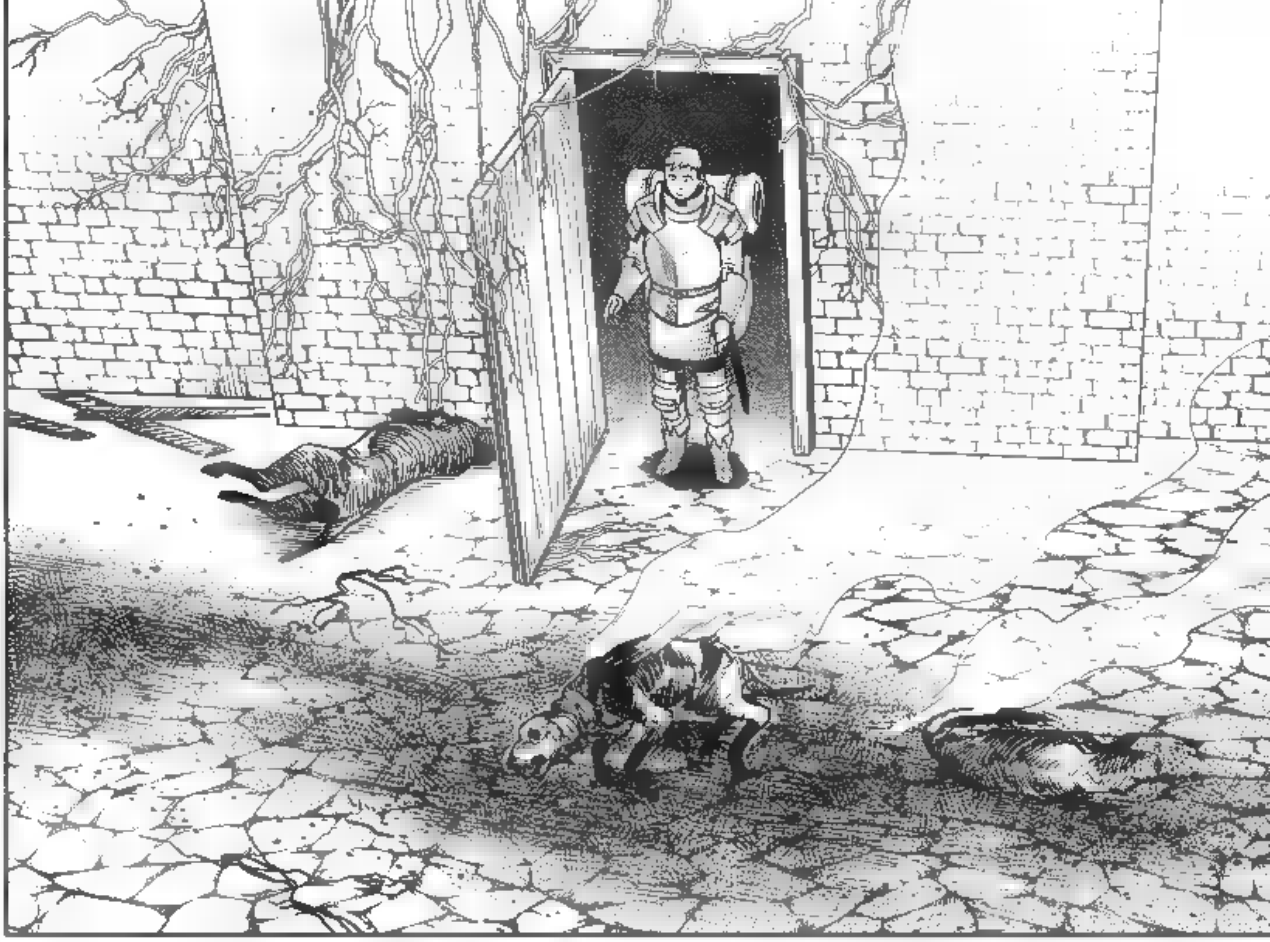
WOW...

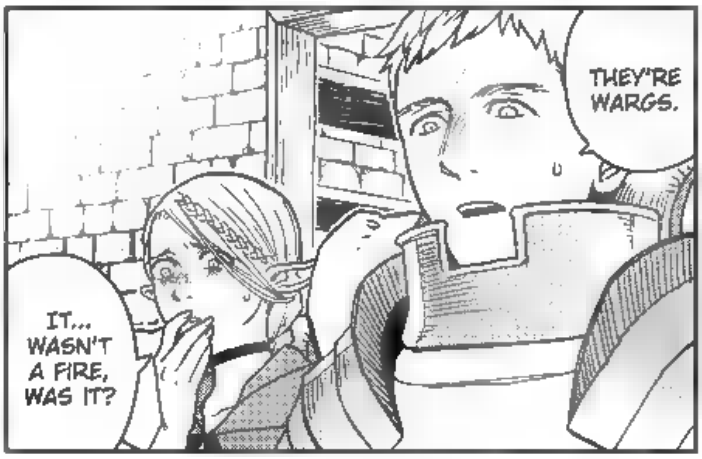


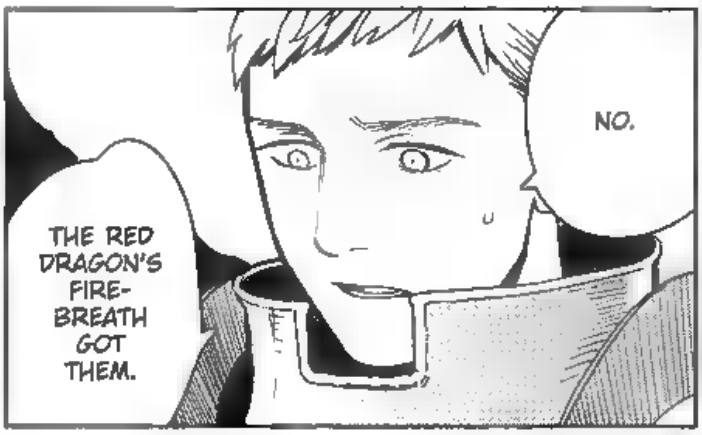
## 23. Red Dragon I

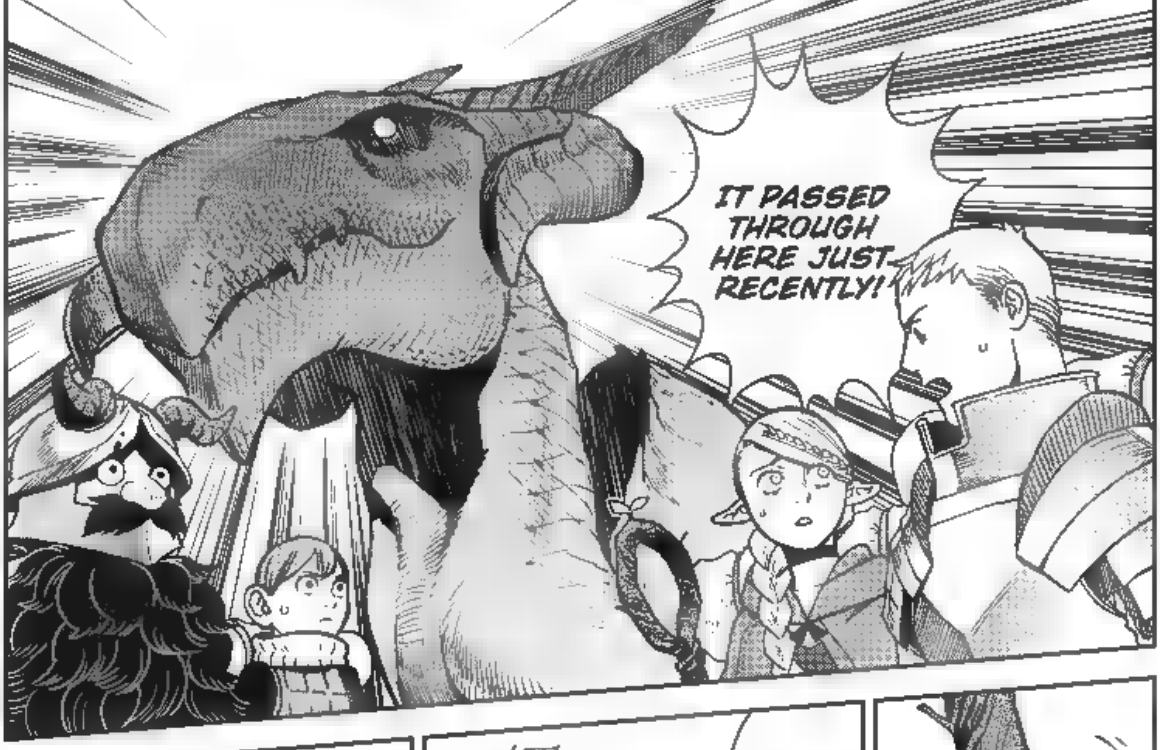

OUTSIDE THE GOLDEN CASTLE, THE CASTLE TOWN UNFOLDS.
BELOW-GROUND, SF
MAGIC HAS EXPANDED AND WARPED THE STREETS ...
...BUT EVERYWHERE THERE ARE TRACES OF THE AGE WHEN THE TOWN WAS BUSTLING AND LIVELY.
A STRANGE FEELING COMES OVER YOU.
A HALF-CAUGHT GLIMPSE OF SOMEONE PASSING.
THE SOUND OF WHIS-PERS, REAL OR IMAG-INED.

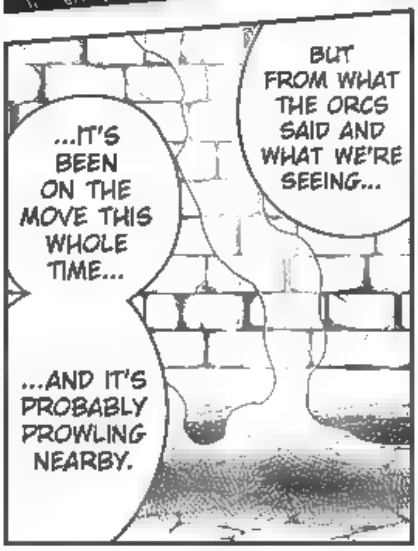
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY LEFT IN A BIG HURRY.
THEIR LARDER IS WIDE-OPEN.
THE ORCS' VILLAGE WAS AROUND HERE.
LET'S MAKE BREAD.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE FLOUR AND LIQUOR ARE SAFE.
OH-HO!
WHAT AN AWFUL SMELL.
THE LOCAL MONSTERS MUST HAVE GOTTEN INTO IT.
...AH!
MISHI (KRIK)
MISHI
WHEN THE ORCS COME BACK, THEY'LL GET MAD.
WE GAVE THEM OUR VEGETABLES. THIS MAKES US EVEN.




THEY'RE WARGS.
IT... WASN'T A FIRE, WAS IT?


NO.
THE RED DRAGON'S FIRE-BREATH GOT THEM.


IT PASSED THROUGH HERE JUST RECENTLY!


BUT FROM WHAT THE ORCS SAID AND WHAT WE'RE SEEING...
...IT'S BEEN ON THE MOVE THIS WHOLE TIME...
...AND IT'S PROBABLY PROWLING NEARBY.

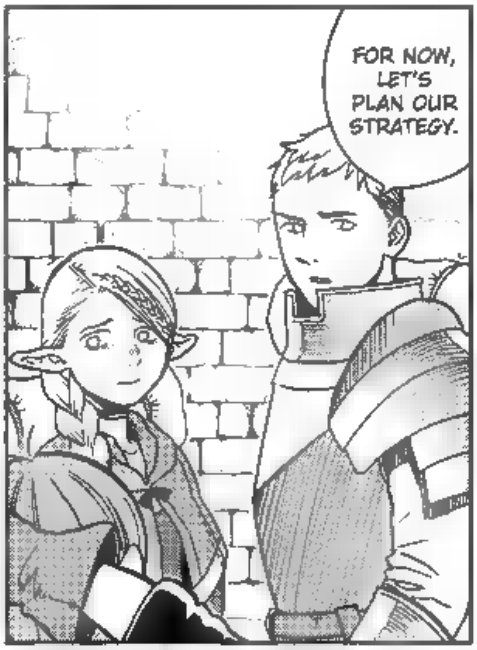
...DIDN'T YOU SAY EARLIER ...
...THAT DRAGONS SLEEP MOST OF THE TIME AND AREN'T ACTIVE?

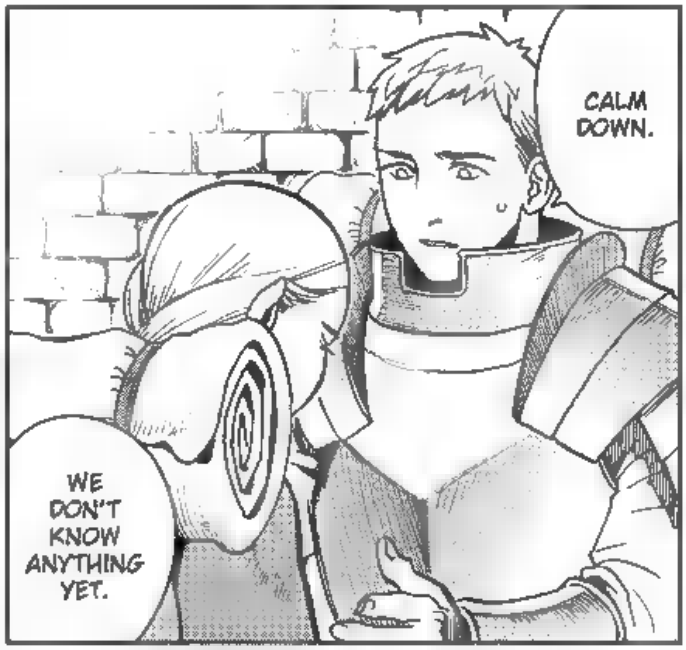
...L- LISTEN...

IF SHE'S ALREADY BEEN DIGESTED ...

IF WE LOSE AGAIN...

MAYBE WE COULD HAVE DEFEATED A SLEEPING DRAGON...
...BUT CAN WE REALLY BEAT IT NOW?


FOR NOW, LET'S PLAN OUR STRATEGY.

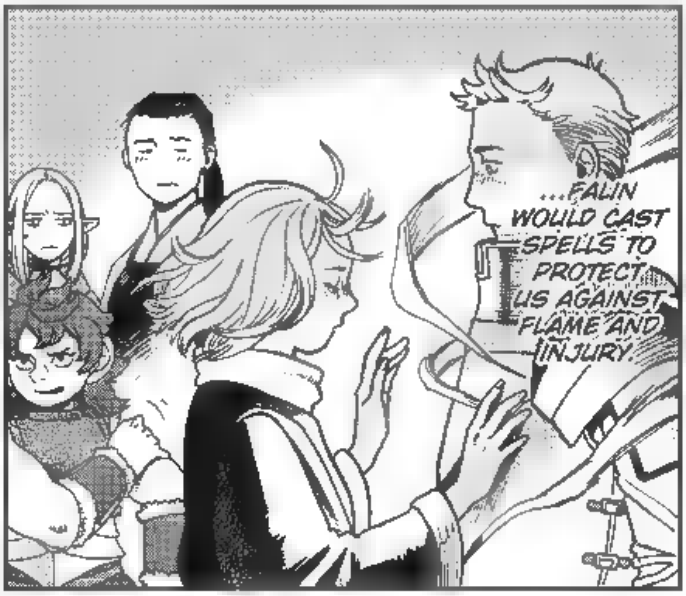

CALM DOWN.
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING YET.

THREE?

THAT'S EASY TO SAY...
...BUT FIGHTING IT WITH JUST THREE PEOPLE IS GOING TO BE ROUGH...

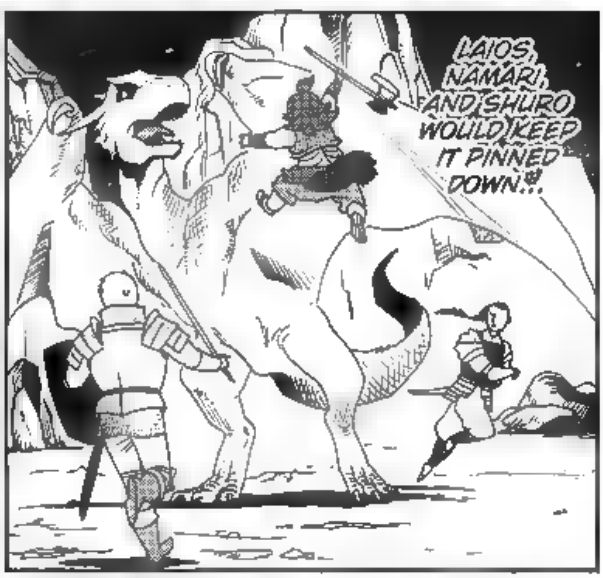
S-SORRY.
WE KNOW THAT.
NOBODY'S BLAMING YOU. GEEZ.

I'VE TOLD YOU A MILLION TIMES! DON'T EXPECT ME TO FIGHT!
MY JOB WAS TO HELP YOU GET THIS FAR. THAT'S IT!

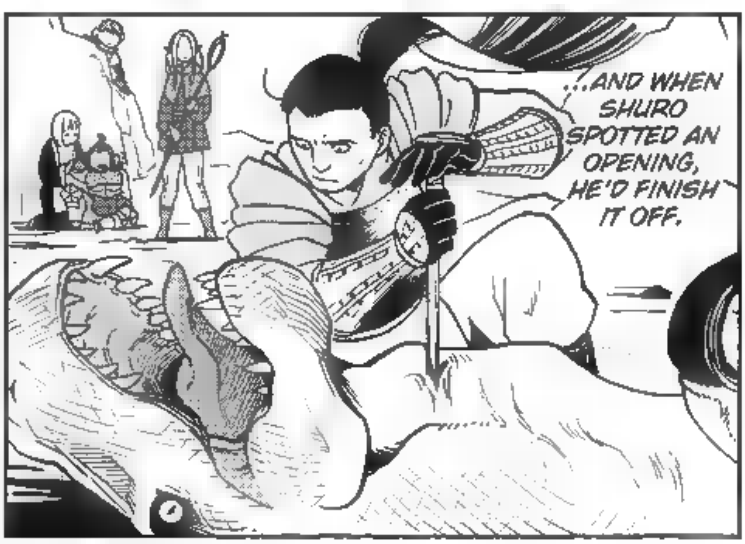

...FALIN WOULD CAST SPELLS TO PROTECT US AGAINST FLAME AND INJURY.

HOW DID YOU DEFEAT DRAGONS BEFORE?
IT DEPENDED ON THE TIME, PLACE, AND SPECIES, BUT...

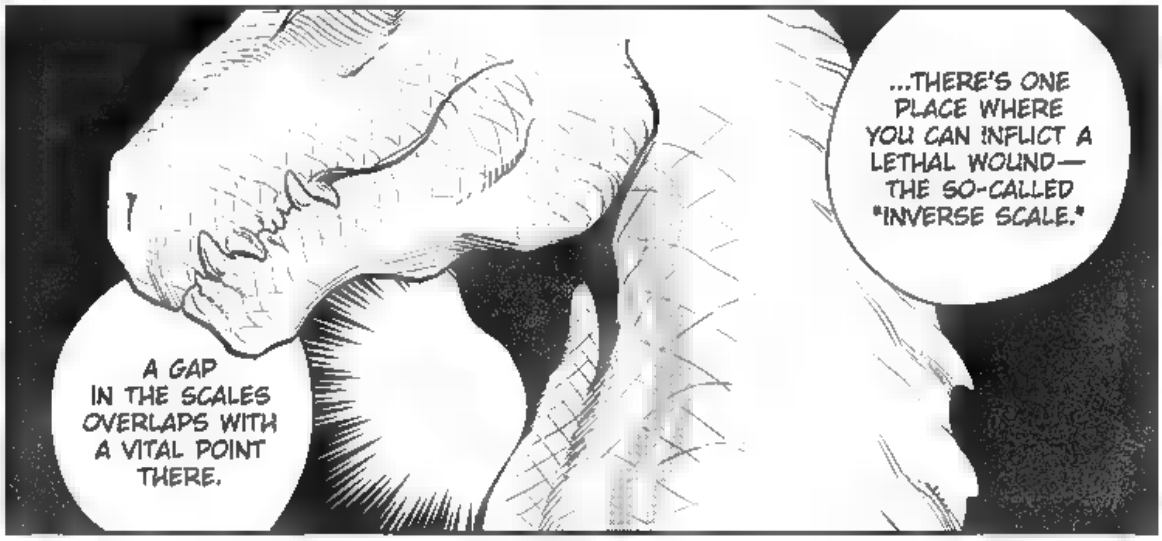
...MARCILLE WOULD WEAKEN IT WITH EXPLOSIVE SPELLS...

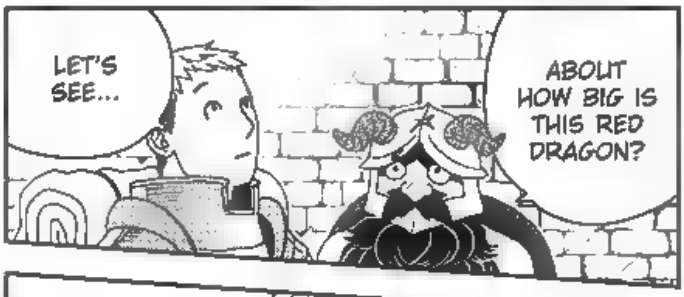

LAIOS, NAMARI, AND SHURO WOULD KEEP IT PINNED DOWN!!

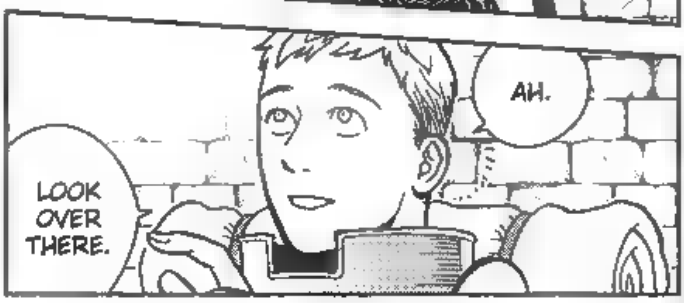
THAT'S ABOUT HOW IT USUALLY WENT.


...AND WHEN SHURO SPOTTED AN OPENING, HE'D FINISH IT OFF.

HOWEVER, JUST BELOW THEIR HEAD...
MAGIC AND WEAPONS DON'T WORK WELL ON DRAGONS.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEIR BODIES ARE COVERED ■ SCALES LIKE IRON.
OF COURSE, OUR NUMBERS MADE THAT POSSIBLE.
WE NEED TO THINK OF SOMETHING THE THREE OF US CAN PULL OFF.


...THERE'S ONE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN INFLICT A LETHAL WOUND— THE SO-CALLED "INVERSE SCALE."
A GAP IN THE SCALES OVERLAPS WITH A VITAL POINT THERE.

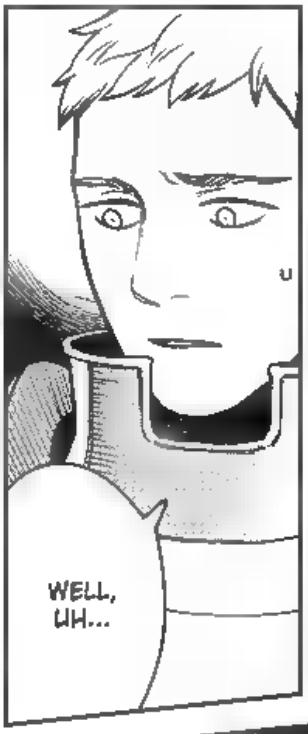

LET'S SEE...
ABOUT HOW BIG IS THIS RED DRAGON?


AH.
LOOK OVER THERE.

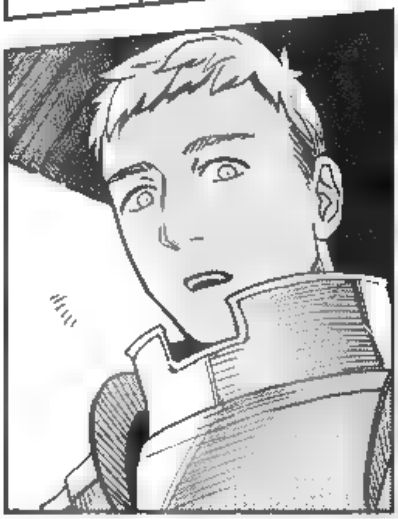
IF WE STAB THAT, WE CAN WIN!

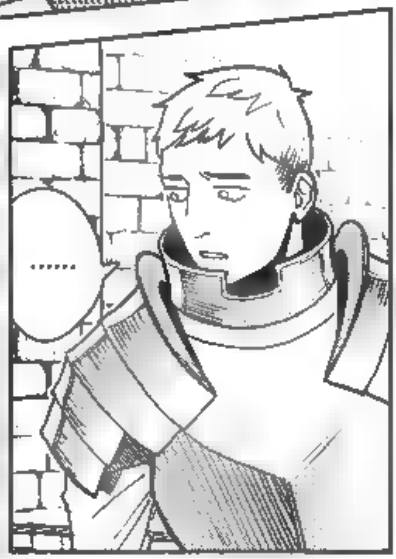
...THAT'S BIG.
OH! I SEE.
ACTUALLY, I BET THE DRAGON BANGED ITS HEAD ON THAT.
SEE THAT CRUMBLING CORRIDOR?
IT'S ABOUT THAT TALL.
LET'S TRY GOING UP THERE.
HMM...
YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT.
STRIKING IT AT THAT HEIGHT WILL BE NO EASY TASK.

COULD I JUMP TO THE DRAGON'S HEAD FROM HERE?
NO. NO WAY!
I WOULDN'T.
THIS SURE IS HIGH.
YEAH, WHAT ABOUT THE FIRE-BREATH?
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN ON THIS FLOOR.
IF YOU FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT, YOU'LL DEFINITELY GET HURT...
...AND I CAN'T BLOCK FIRE-BREATH.
I CAN CAST DEFENSE SPELLS...
...BUT I'M NOT AS GOOD AS FALIN.
IF I'M GOING TO BE CHANTING A SPELL BIG ENOUGH TO KNOCK OUT A DRAGON, I'LL NEED TIME.
BESIDES, NAMARI DIDN'T THINK SENSHI'S AX WOULD BE ANY GOOD.
WILL YOUR SWORD WORK, LAIOS?


WELL, UH...

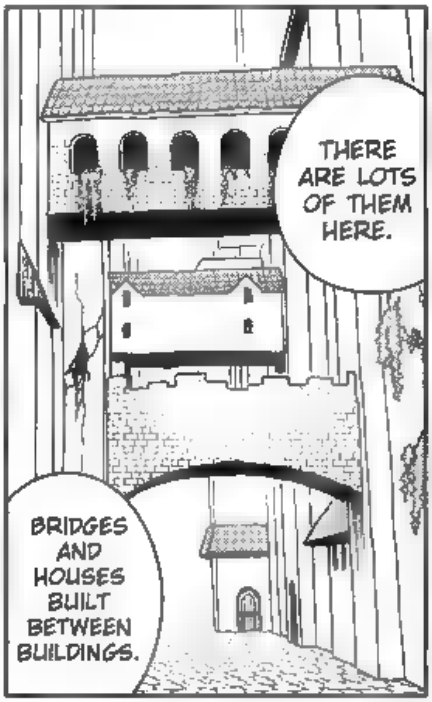
CAN YOU AND SENSHI DO THAT BY YOURSELVES, LAIOS?
AND WE CAN'T KILL IT UNLESS SOMEONE STRIKES THAT LAST BLOW.

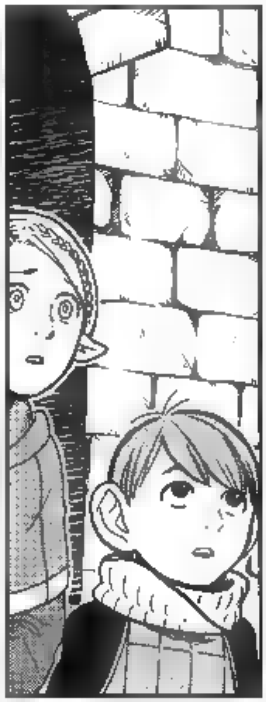



.....

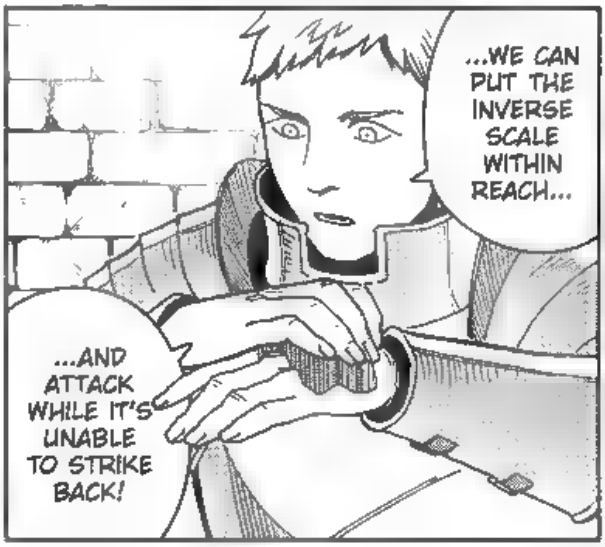
WE'LL MANAGE SOME-HOW...
YEAH, BUT HOW?

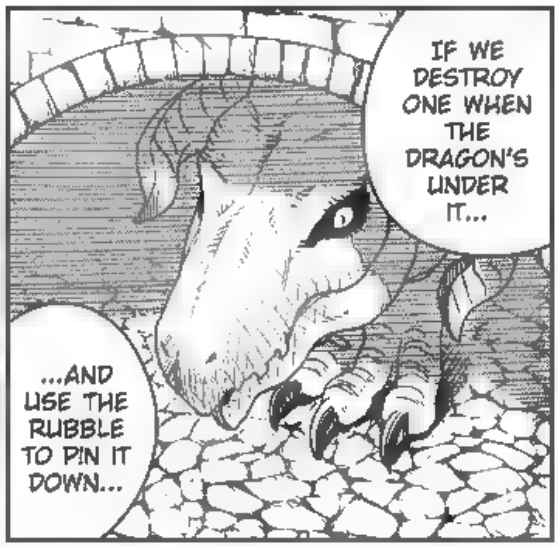
パラ
PARA (CRUMBLE)


THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM HERE.
BRIDGES AND HOUSES BUILT BETWEEN BUILDINGS.

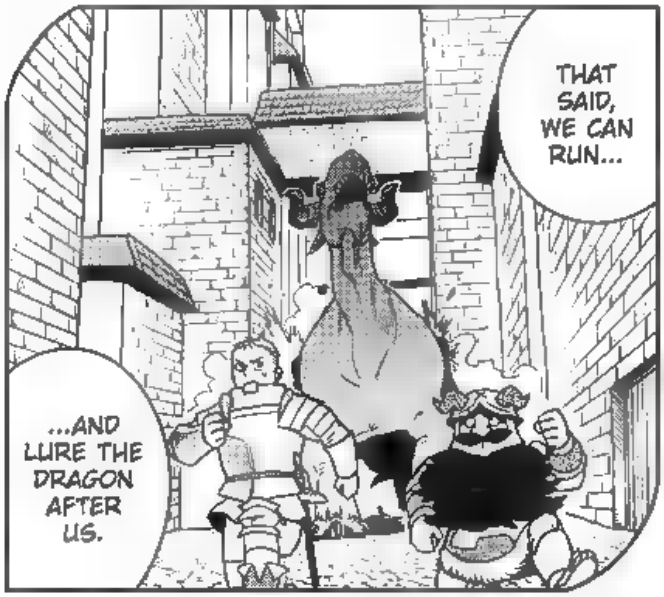


WHAT IF, INSTEAD OF THE DRAGON...
...WE BLOW UP A BUILDING?

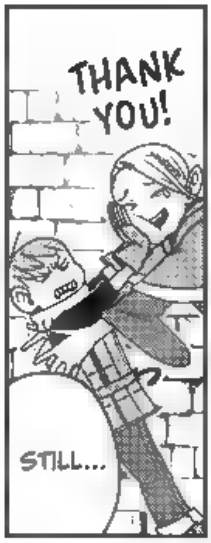

...WE CAN PUT THE INVERSE SCALE WITHIN REACH...
...AND ATTACK WHILE IT'S UNABLE TO STRIKE BACK!


IF WE DESTROY ONE WHEN THE DRAGON'S UNDER IT...
...AND USE THE RUBBLE TO PIN IT DOWN...

OH...


THAT SAID, WE CAN RUN...
...AND LURE THE DRAGON AFTER US.

IT'S TRUE WE FEW WON'T BE ABLE TO STALL IT LONG ENOUGH ...
...TO SET UP ANYTHING ELABO-RATE.


THANK YOU!
STILL...

...I SEE.
I COULD HELP YOU WITH THAT.
DO YOU MEAN IT!?

THIS TOWN IS A TIGHT FIT FOR THE DRAGON.
IF WE PLAN OUR ROUTE RIGHT, WE CAN TIRE IT OUT.
IT MUST BE TIRED ALREADY FROM BEING ACTIVE FOR SO LONG ANYWAY.

MAYBE IT'S IN HEAT?
BUTSU BUTSU (MUTTER)
BUT...
BY THE WAY...

...I WONDER WHY IT ISN'T SLEEPING.
AND WHY IS IT ON THE FIFTH FLOOR?
IT HATES SMALL SPACES, BUT IT'S STUBBORNLY HANGING AROUND HERE.

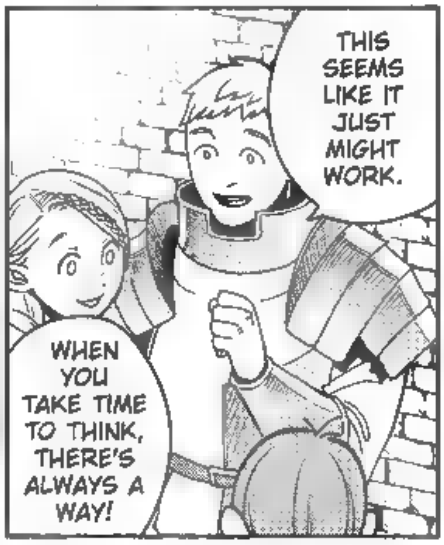
SHE DID SAY THAT!!
IT WAS EVERY BLACK-SMITH'S DREAM, OR SOME SUCH.
...AND SHATTER THEIR SOME-THING ELSE...
WHAT WAS IT? IT CAN STOP DRAGONS' SOME-THING...

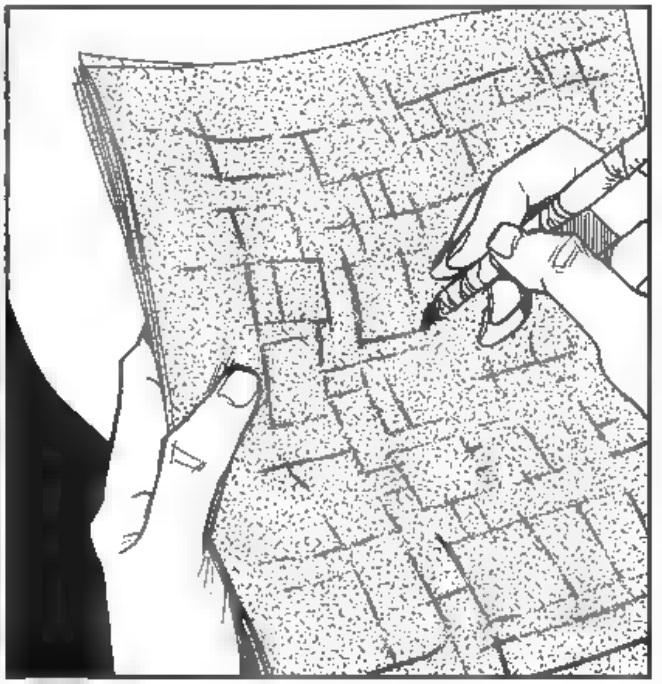
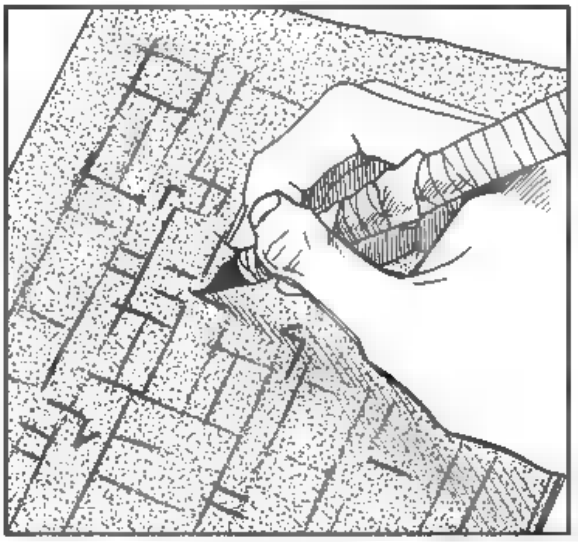
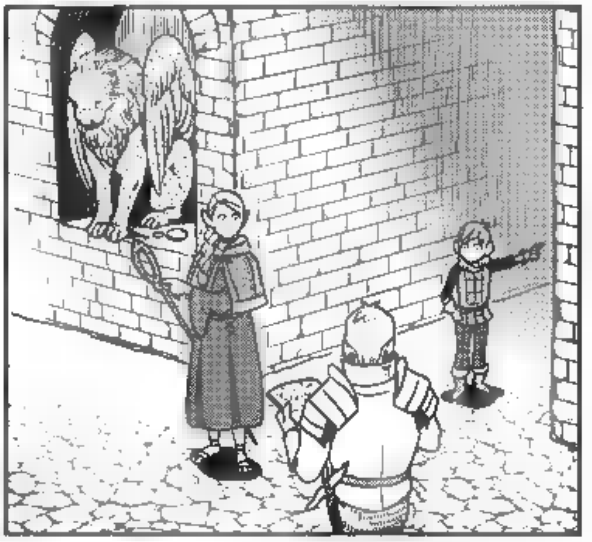
...WAS MADE OF AN AMAZING METAL?
...DIDN'T NAMARI SAY SENSHI'S POT...

WE SHOULD HAVE HAD NAMARI LOOK AT IT.
YOUR KITCHEN KNIFE ISN'T SPECIAL TOO, IS IT?
SAI (WHISK)

RIGHT, THAT'S IT!
THE THING IT BLOCKS MUST BE FIRE-BREATH!
THAT SOLVES THAT PROBLEM, THEN.

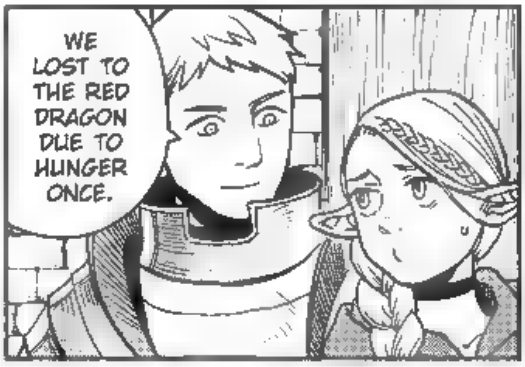
OKAY!
LET'S GO SCOUT OUT A ROUTE TO RUN IT DOWN.


THIS SEEMS LIKE IT JUST MIGHT WORK.
WHEN YOU TAKE TIME TO THINK, THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY!

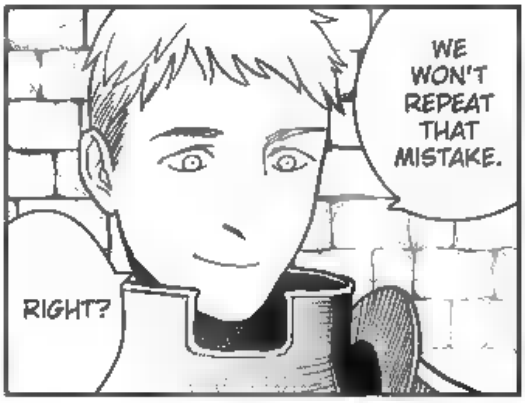




I WAS BAKING BREAD.
FUKKARI (FLUFFY)
ふっかり
WE'RE ABOUT TO FIGHT A DRAGON, YOU KNOW...

YOU'RE BACK, HM?
SENSHI, YOU JUST DISAPPEARED ON US.


WE LOST TO THE RED DRAGON DUE TO HUNGER ONCE.

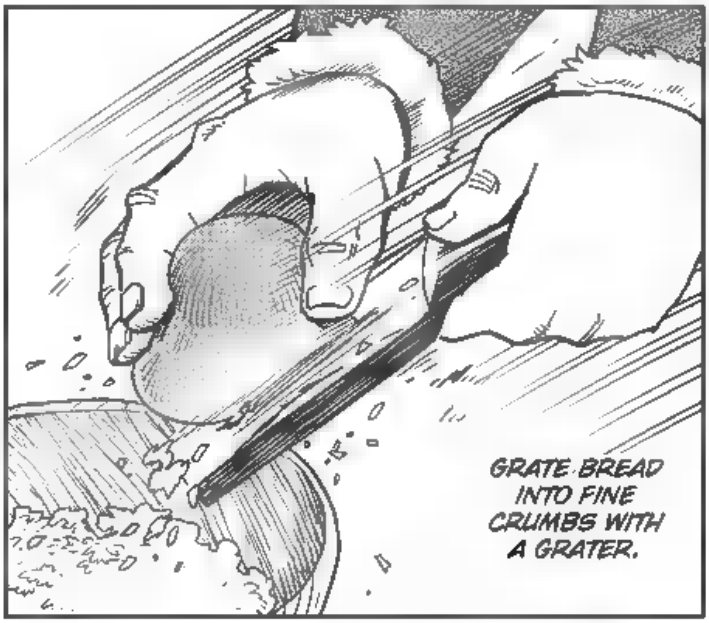
OF COURSE I DO.
WE'RE GOING TO BE WORKING HARD, RIGHT?
FORTIFYING OURSELVES WITH A MEAL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO.


WE WON'T REPEAT THAT MISTAKE.
RIGHT?

NOT UNTIL WE WIN.
AAAAH!!

I TOOK SOME FROM THE LARDER.

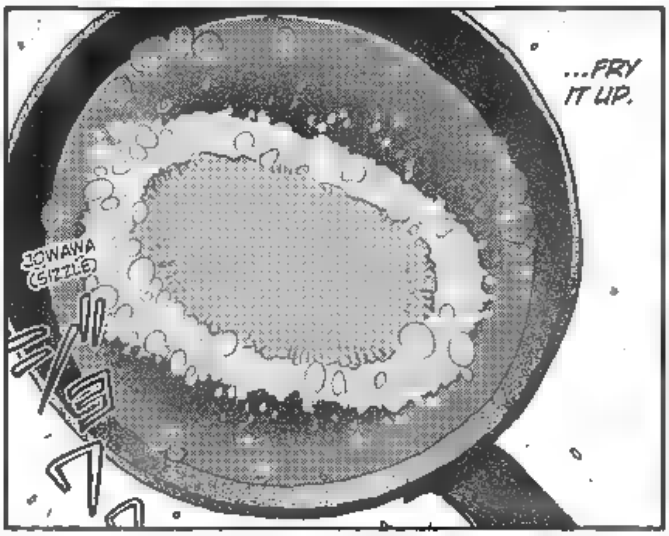
HEY!
IT'S WINE.


GRATE BREAD INTO FINE CRUMBS WITH A GRATER.

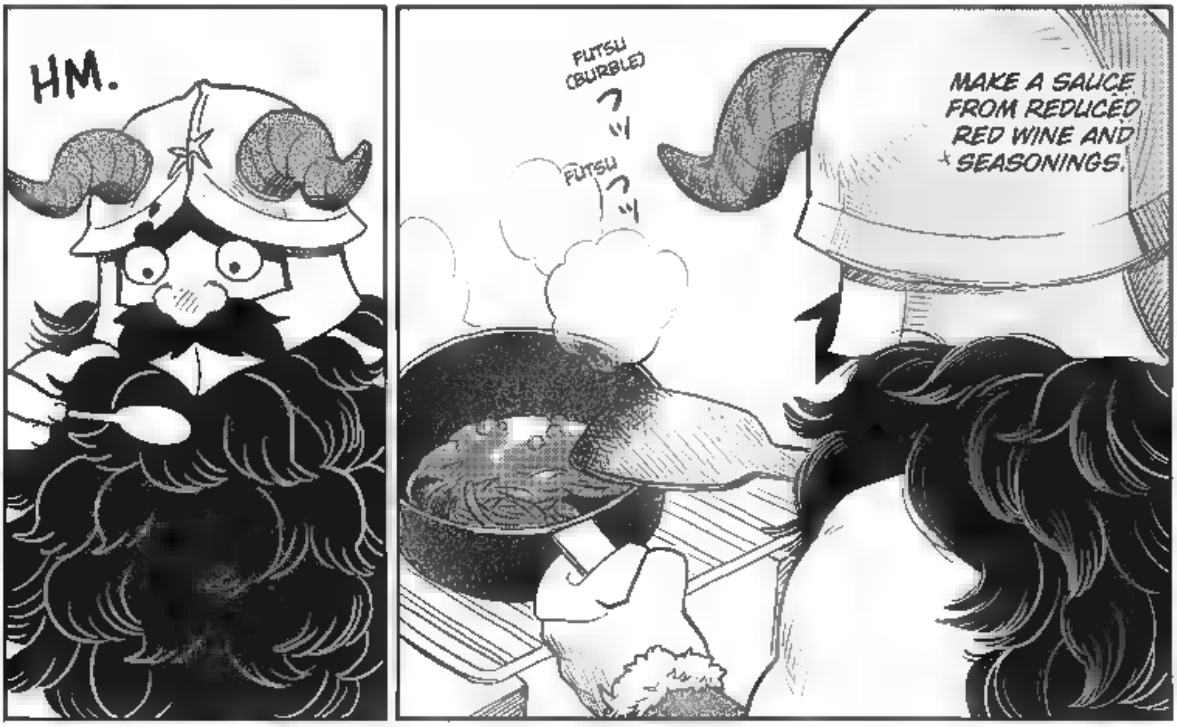
NO EGGS HERE, BUT...
...WITH WHAT'S HERE, I COULD MAKE ONE THING.

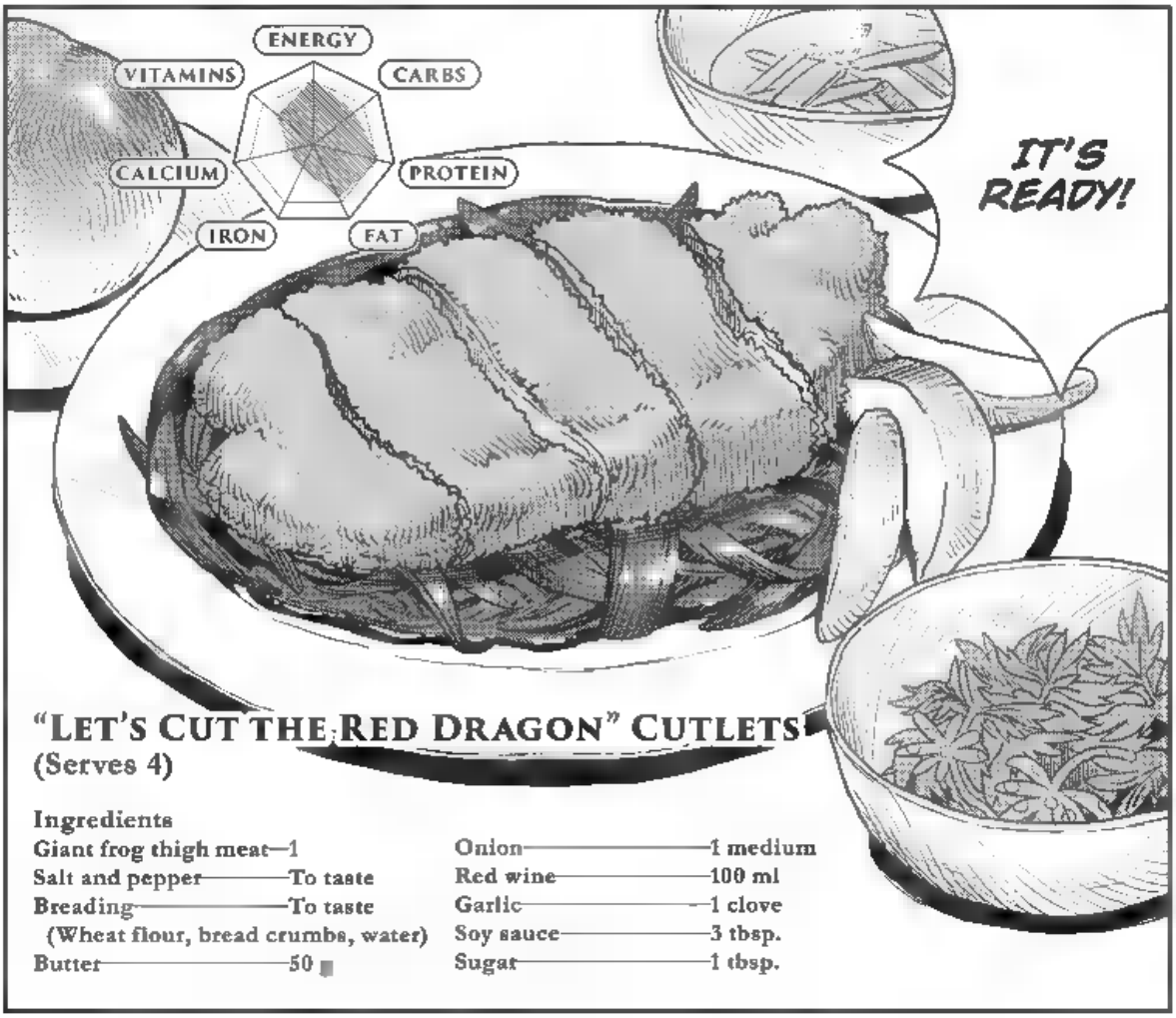
FUWA (FLUFF)
FUWA
COAT IT WITH THE BREAD CRUMBS.

SEASON GIANT FROG MEAT WITH SALT AND PEPPER...
...THEN DUNK IT IN A MIXTURE OF FLOUR AND WATER.


...FRY IT UP.
JOWAWA (SIZZLE)

ONCE THE OLIVE OIL IS HOT...




## "Let's Cut the Red Dragon" Cutlets
(Serves 4)

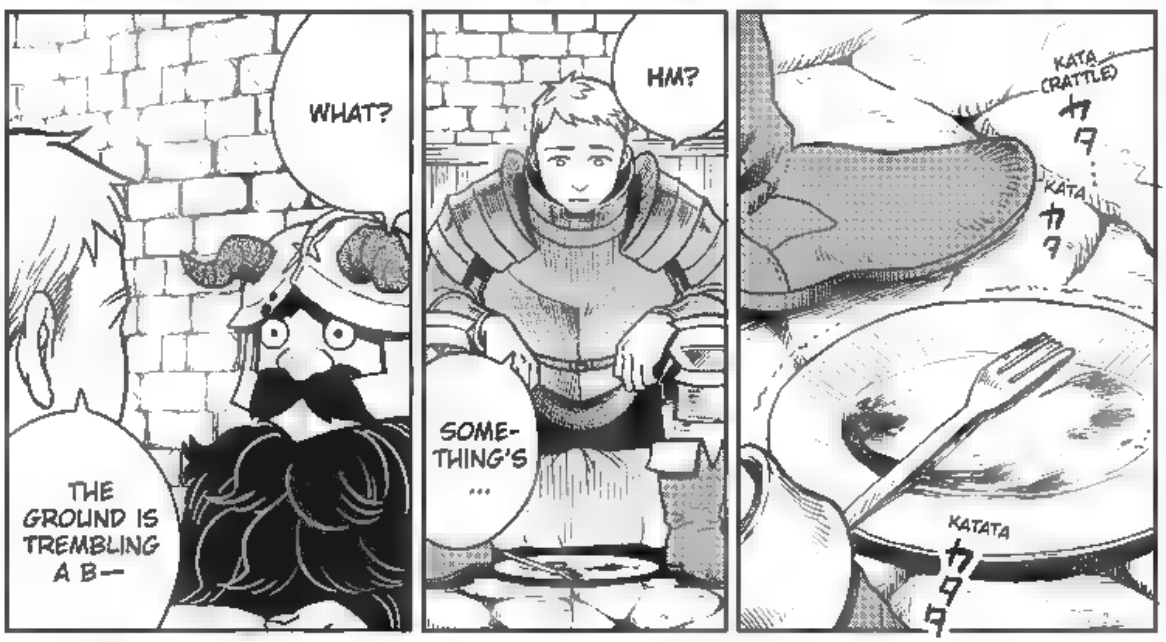
**Ingredients**

| | |
|---|---|
| Giant frog thigh meat | 1 |
| Salt and pepper | To taste |
| Breading | To taste |
| (Wheat flour, bread crumbs, water) | |
| Butter | 50 g |
| Onion | 1 medium |
| Red wine | 100 ml |
| Garlic | 1 clove |
| Soy sauce | 3 tbsp. |
| Sugar | 1 tbsp. |

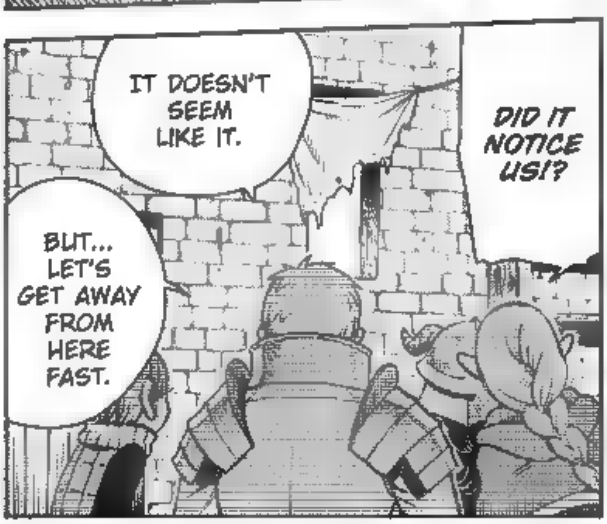
IT'S CRUNCHY.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
THAT LOOKS GOOD.
THE SMELL WOKE UP MY STOMACH.
I'M JUST OVERCOME WITH EMOTION TO REALIZE WE WON'T HAVE TO EAT MONSTERS FOR MUCH LONGER.
THERE'S STILL THE RED DRAGON.
JIWA (TEARY)
じわ
GUSUN (SNIFFLE)
グスン
WHAT'S WRONG, MARCILLE?
I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE COME THIS FAR BY MYSELF.
KOTO (CLUNK)
コト
THERE'S ...
...SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SAY.

YOUR DELICIOUS MEALS SAVED OUR SPIRITS AS WELL AS OUR STOMACHS.
SENSHI, SERIOUSLY, THANK YOU.
WE WERE TOTAL STRANGERS, BUT YOU WERE KIND TO US.
I KNEW WE COULD DEPEND ON YOU.
CHIL-CHUCK.
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE, WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO DETOUR MANY TIMES, AND WE WOULD'VE [redacted] DELAYED FOR DAYS.
WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D COME ALONG, I WAS REALLY HAPPY.
AND MARCILLE.
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU ROUGH IT WHEN YOU AREN'T USED TO TRAVELING.

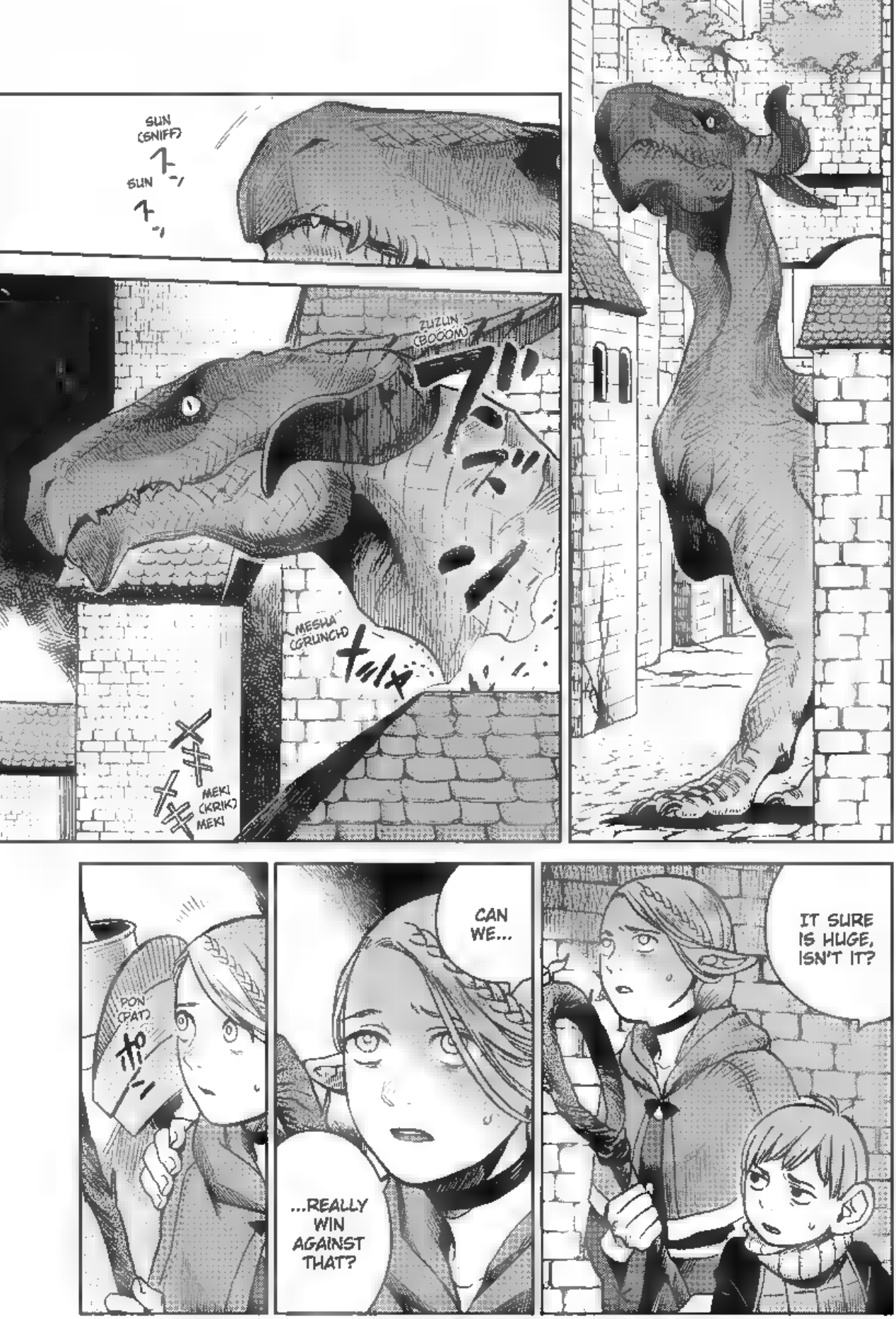
LOUSY TIMING!
YEAAAH!
SORRY...
GOKUN (SWALLOW)
MOGU
MOGU
NGU
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU (CHEW)

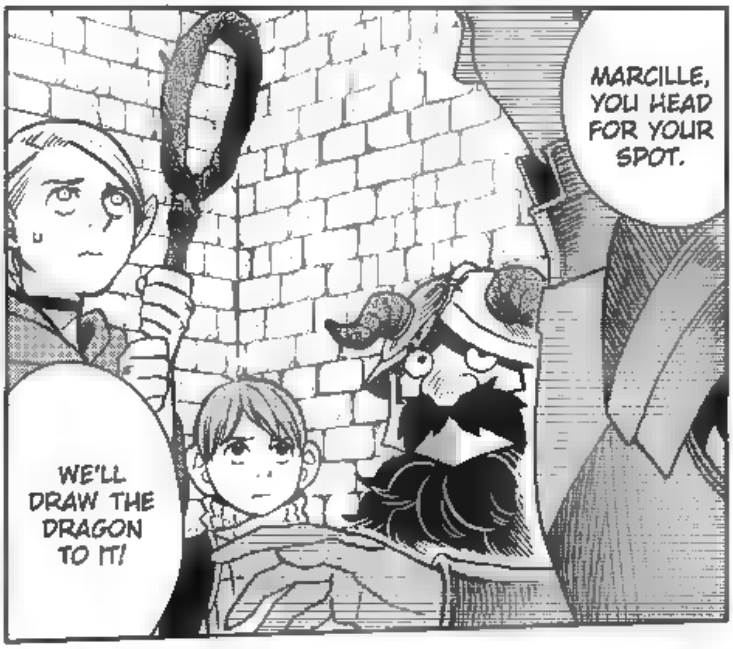

WHAT?
THE GROUND IS TREMBLING A B—
HM?
SOME-THING'S ...
KATA (RATTLE)
KATA
KATATA

ZUSHIN (WHUDDD)


DID IT NOTICE US!?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT.
BUT... LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE FAST.

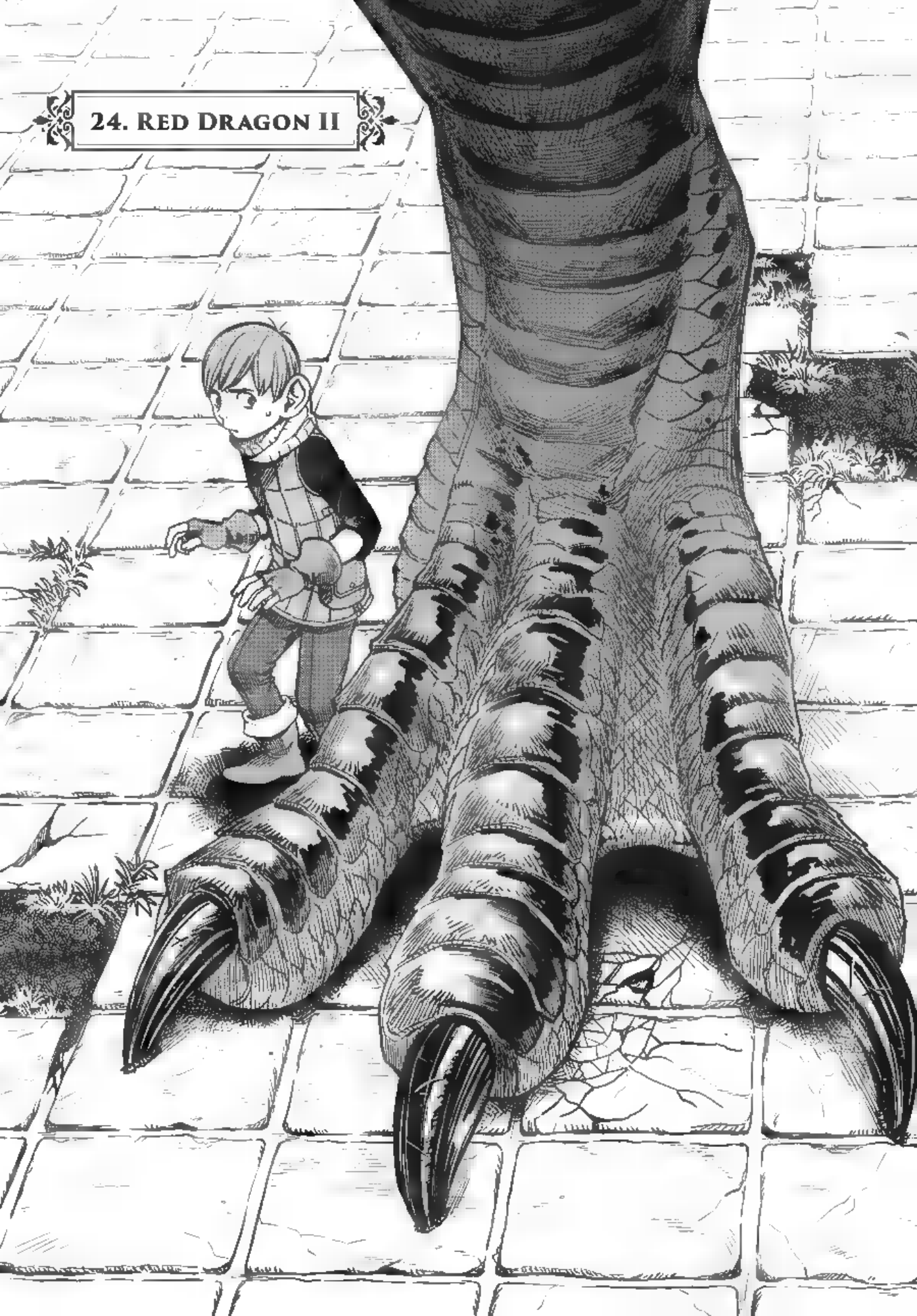
NO... IT CAN'T BE...
THE RED DRAGON IS BACK!?


SUN (SNIFF)
SUN
ZUZUN (BOOOM)
MESHA (GRUNCH)
MEKI (KRIK) MEKI
PON (PAT)
CAN WE...
...REALLY WIN AGAINST THAT?
IT SURE IS HUGE, ISN'T IT?

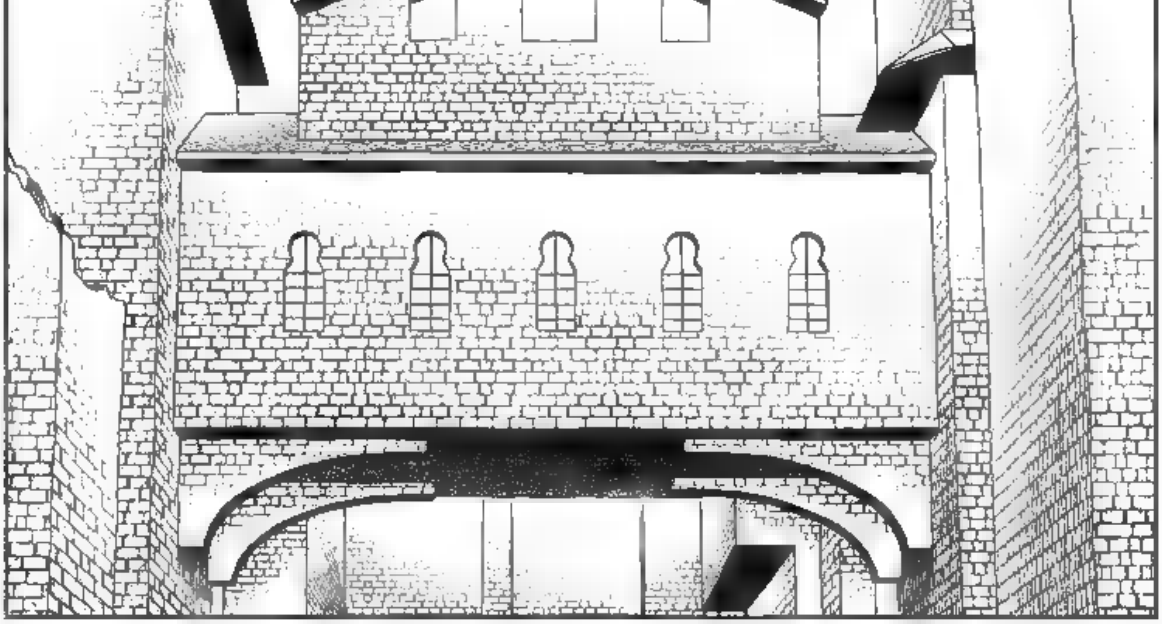


LET'S GO!

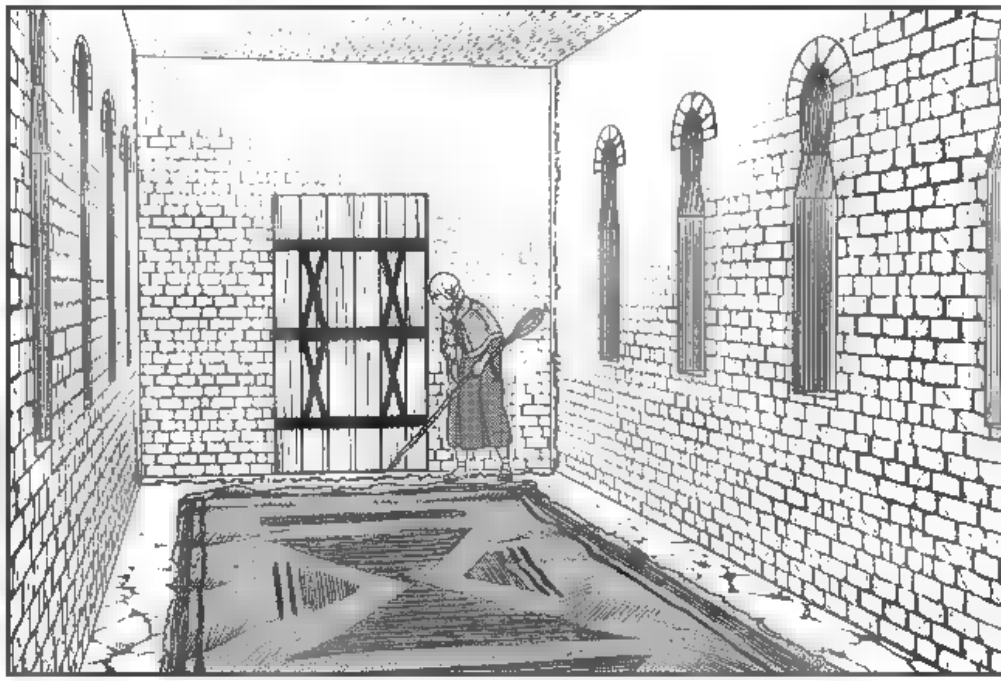
CHAPTER 23: THE END

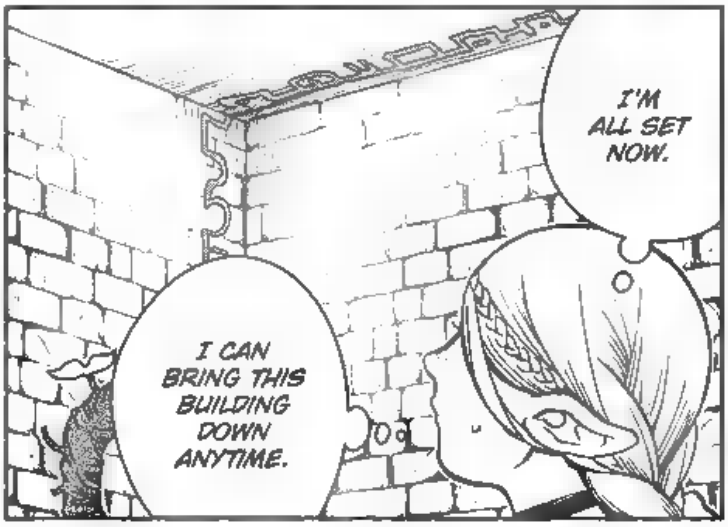


# 24. Red Dragon II



GARI
(SCRITCH)




I'M ALL SET NOW.
I CAN BRING THIS BUILDING DOWN ANYTIME.

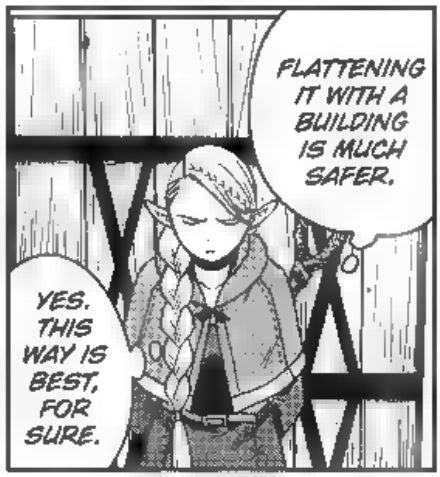
WHEW.

I'LL USE ALL MY MANA...
...AND KNOCK OUT THE DRAGON.
WE'RE ALL RISKING OUR LIVES.
AN EXPLOSIVE SPELL MIGHT MISS.

THIS IS ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT?

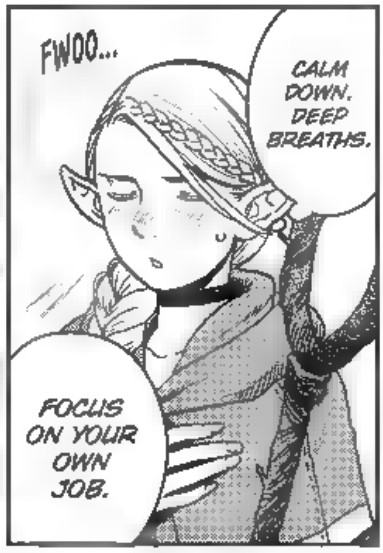
MY MANA...
I'VE GOT QUITE A BIT OF LEEWAY.

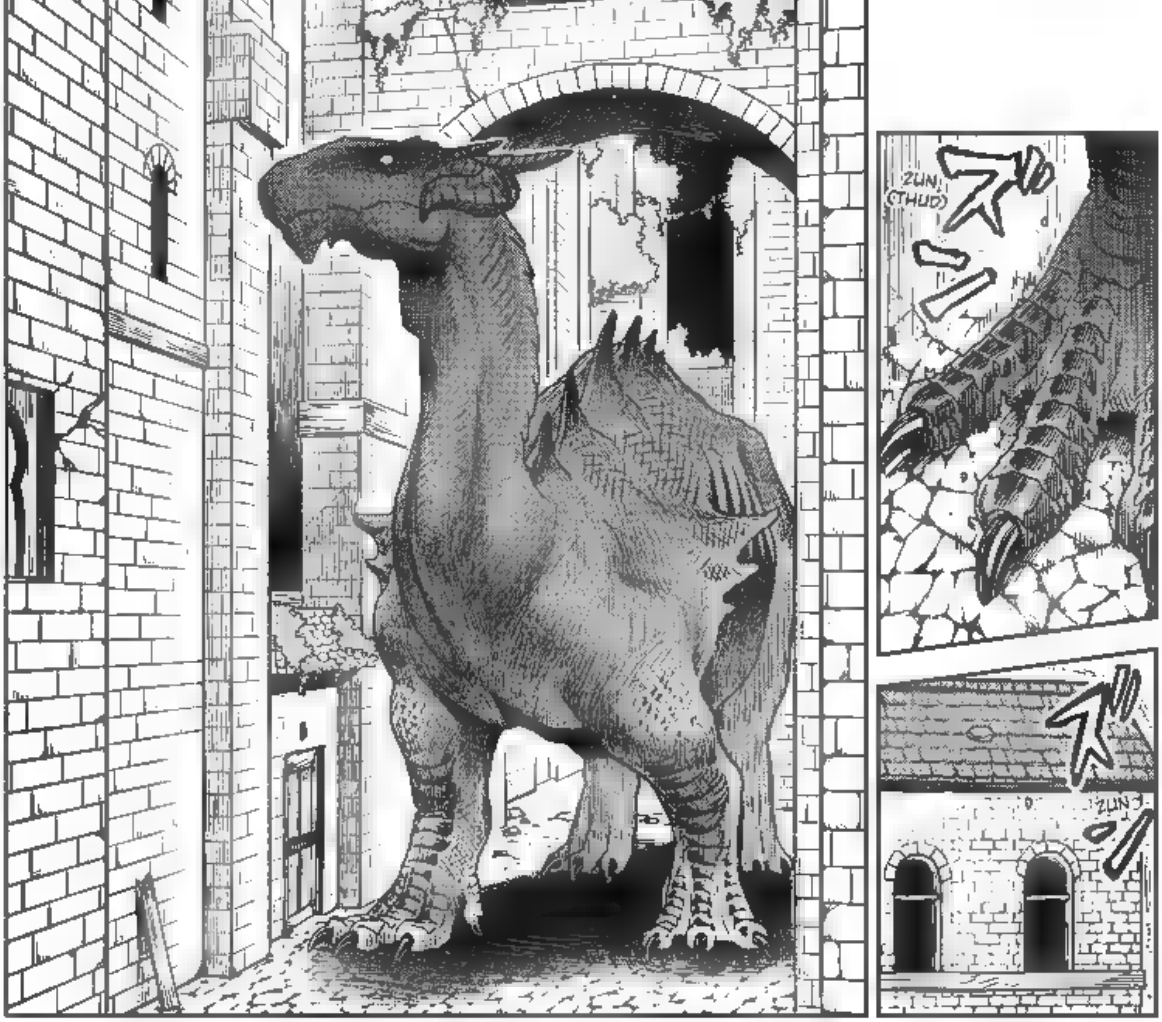
SINCE I HAVE EXTRA MANA...
...IF THE OTHERS RUN INTO TROUBLE, I CAN COVER FOR THEM!

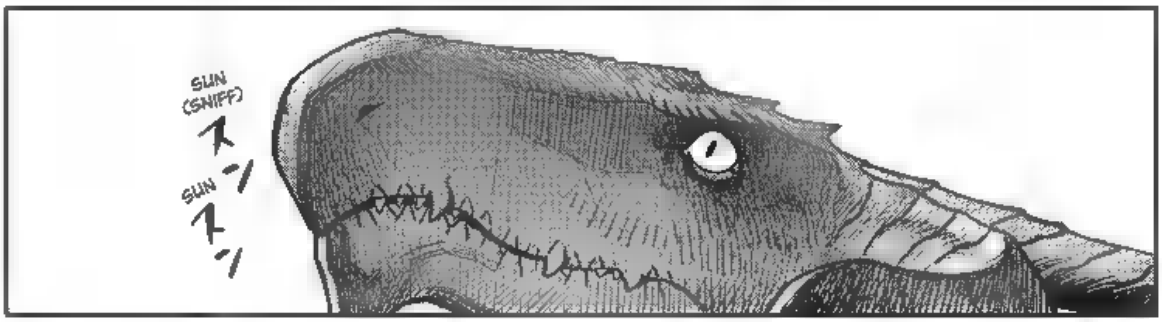

FLATTENING IT WITH A BUILDING IS MUCH SAFER.
YES. THIS WAY IS BEST, FOR SURE.

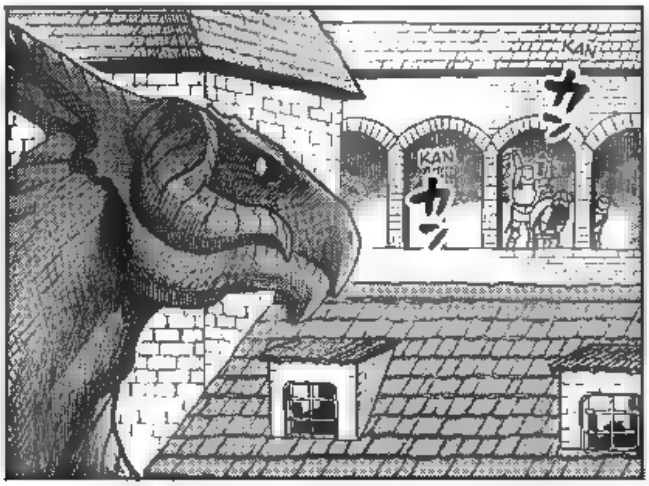
JUST HANG ON, FALIN.

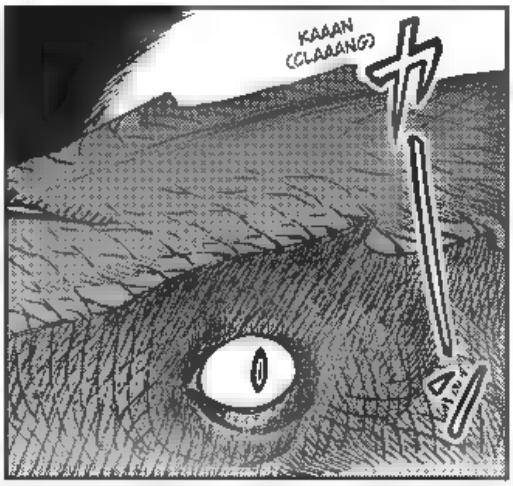
I WILL MAKE THIS WORK!

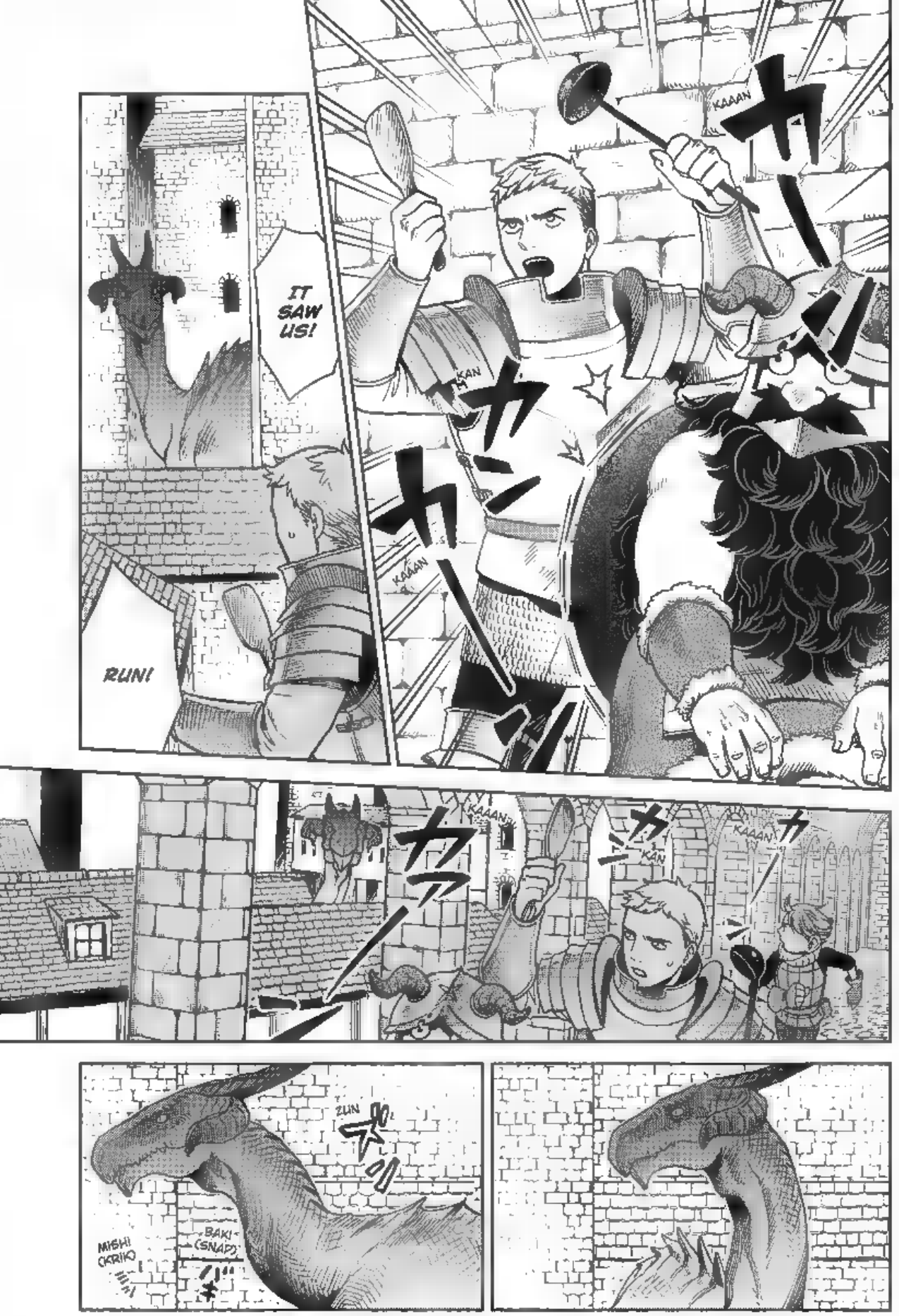

FWOO...
CALM DOWN. DEEP BREATHS.
FOCUS ON YOUR OWN JOB.


ZUN
(THUD)
ZUN

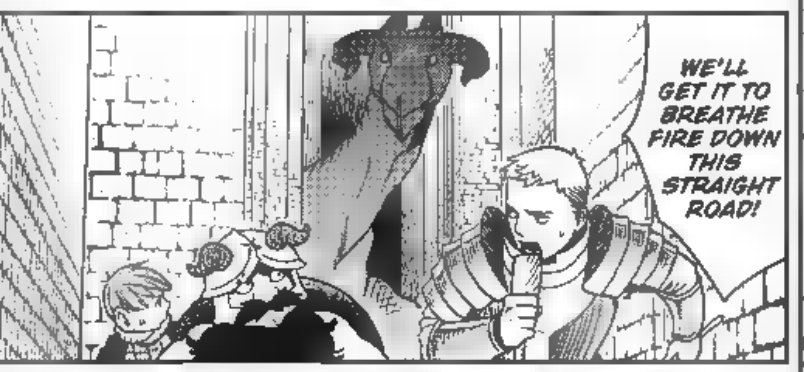

SUN
(SNIFF)
SUN

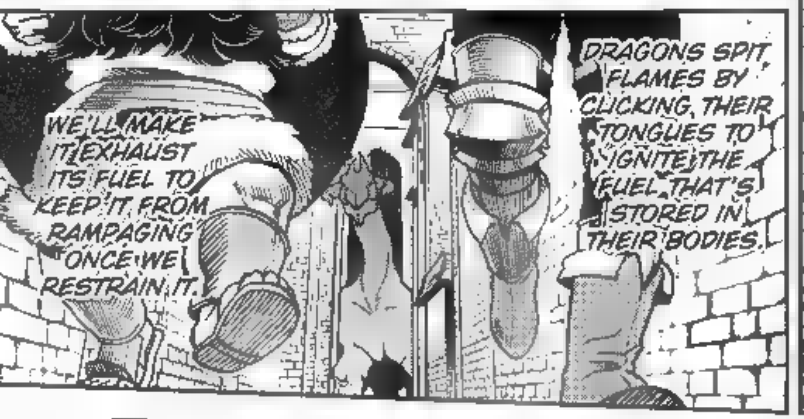

KAN
KAN

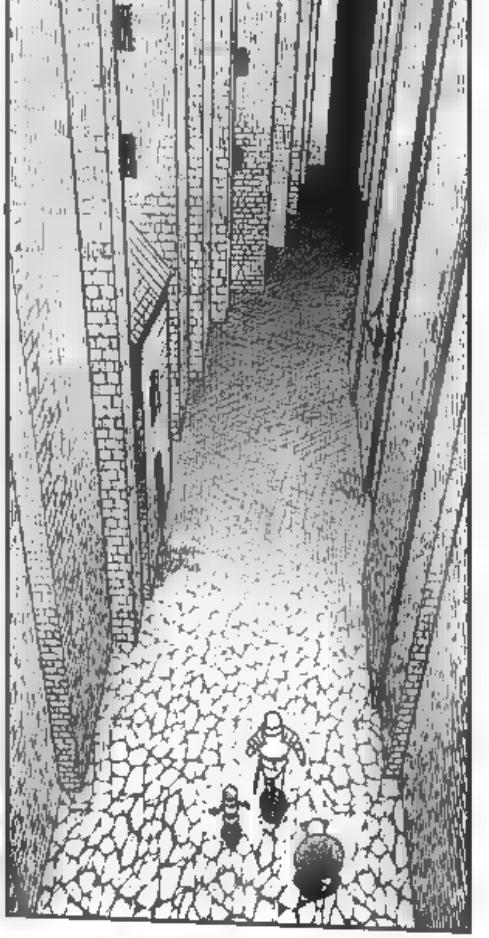

KAAAN
(CLAAANG)

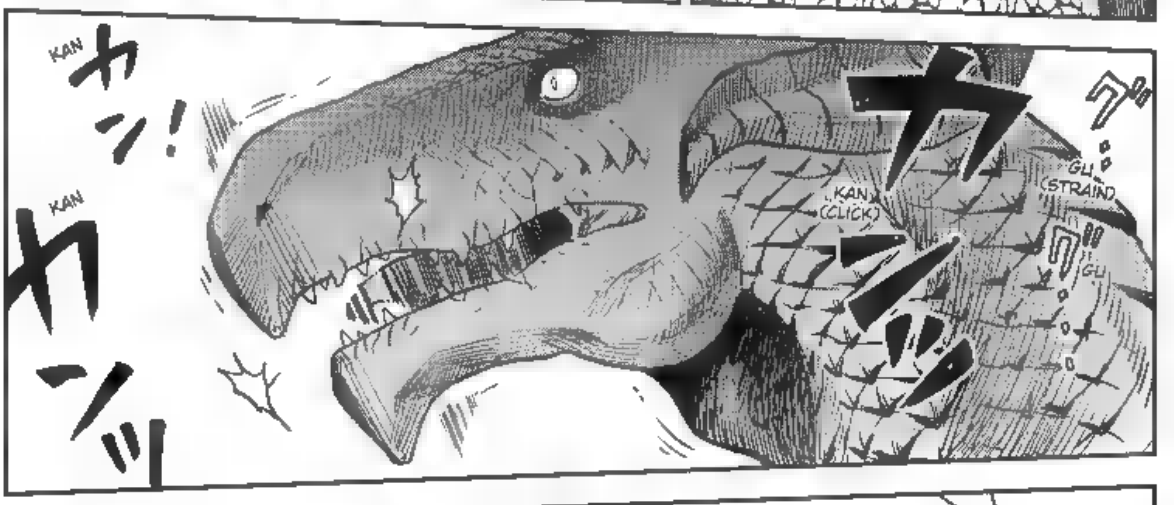

IT SAW US!
RUN!
KAAAN
KAN
KAAAN
KAAAN
KAN
KAAAN
ZUN
MISHI (CRUNCH)
BAKI (SNAP)

DO (LUNGE)
TURN RIGHT AT THE CORNER!
A HUMAN'S TOP SPEED IS 15-30 KMPH.
SAY THAT SOONER!
THE TERRAIN IS HOLDING IT BACK! IT'S OKAY!
BY THE WAY, A RED DRAGON'S TOP SPEED IS 60 KMPH.
GASHA
GASHA (CLANK)
FAST! IT'S FAST!


WE'LL GET IT TO BREATHE FIRE DOWN THIS STRAIGHT ROAD!


WE'LL MAKE IT EXHAUST ITS FUEL TO KEEP IT FROM RAMPAGING ONCE WE RESTRAIN IT.
DRAGONS SPIT FLAMES BY CLICKING THEIR TONGUES TO IGNITE THE FUEL THAT'S STORED IN THEIR BODIES.




KAN
カン!
KAN
カーン!!
KAN (CLICK)
GU (STRAIN)
GU

BA (FWD)
HIDE BEHIND THE POT!
HERE IT COMES!
THAT'S TONGUING!

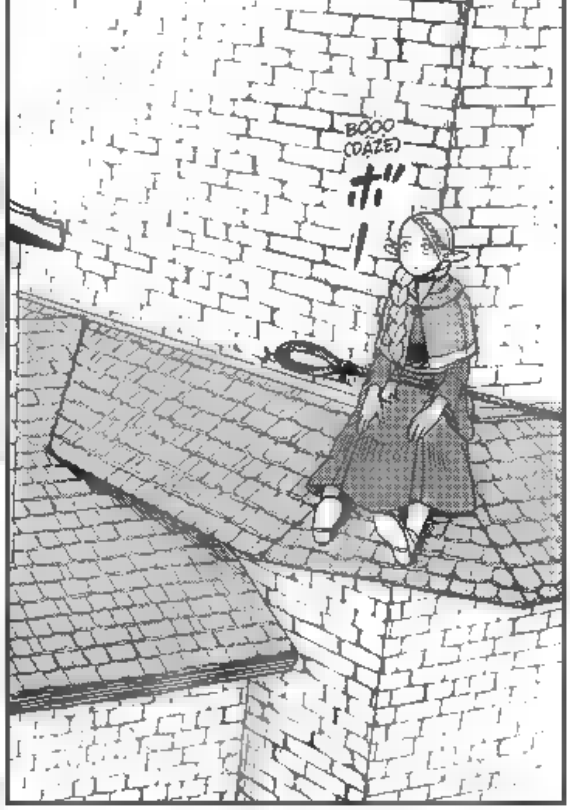
GHK!

...THANKS TO THE POT AND THE SPELLS, WE CAN HANDLE IT!
PU (SEP)
WHAT INCREDIBLE HEAT...
BUT...
GREAT! THIS IS GOING TO...
...SPREADING EVENLY...
JIWA
JIWA (SEEP)
THE HEAT IN THE POT IS...
THIS IS...

HOT!!
GARAAAN
ガラー
GARAAAN (CLATTER)
ガラー
SHIN (SILENCE)
KARAN
カラン
KARAN (CLANG)
カラン
KARAN
カラン

NAMARI SAID ADAMANT BLOCKED ALL DRAGON ATTACKS.
THEN SHE [redacted] TALKING THROUGH HER HAT.
I WAS NOT.
WELL, DUH! SENSHI COOKS WITH THAT EVERY DAY!
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT SPECIALLY DEFLECT DRAGON FIRE.
KAN
KAN
KA CLICK
AGH! HERE IT COMES AGAIN!
GOOOT (FOOOOM)
KAN
WE HAVE NO CHOICE! LET'S CHANGE ROUTES!

HM?


BOOO
(DAZE)

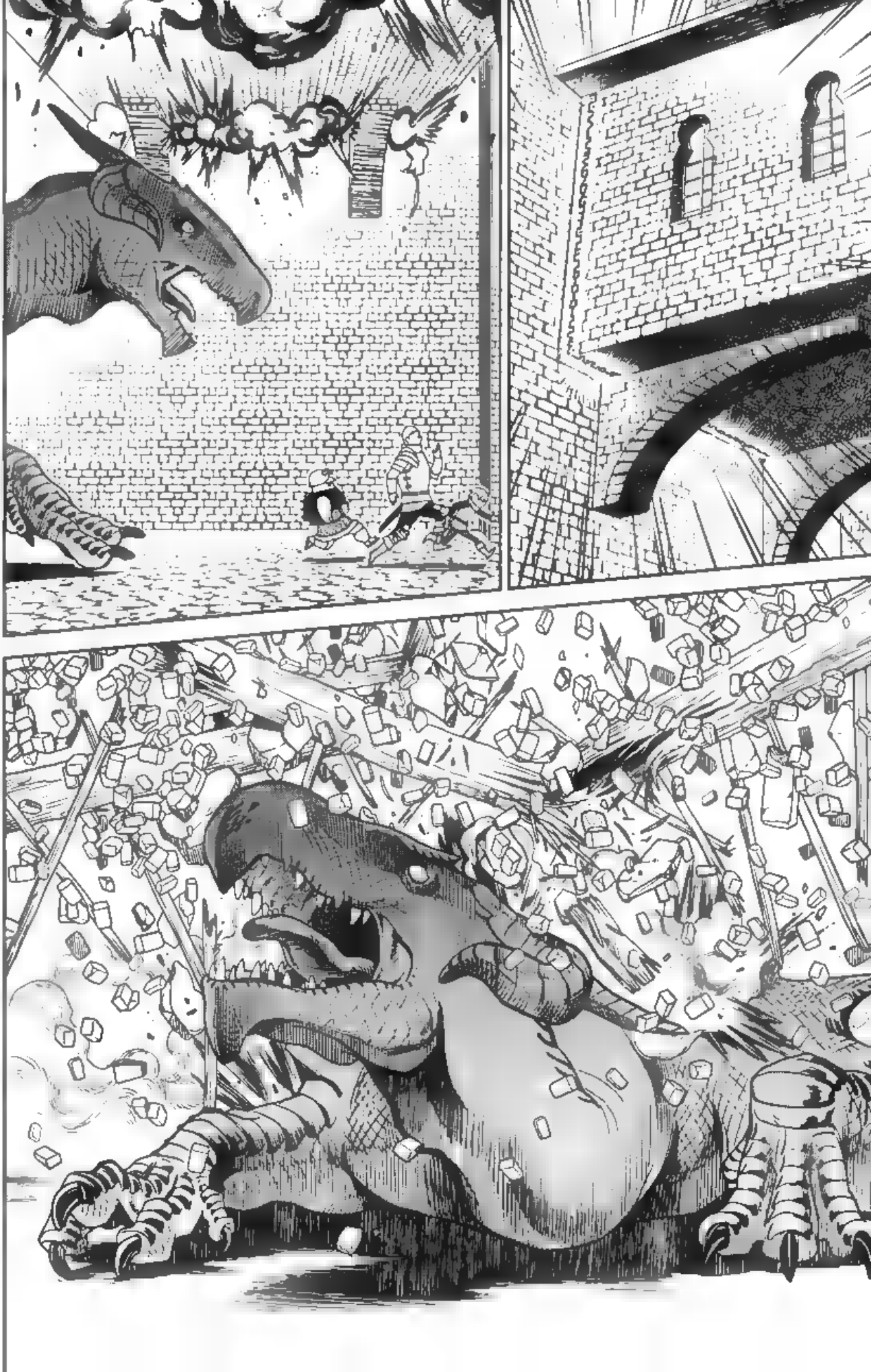
DON
(BOOM)

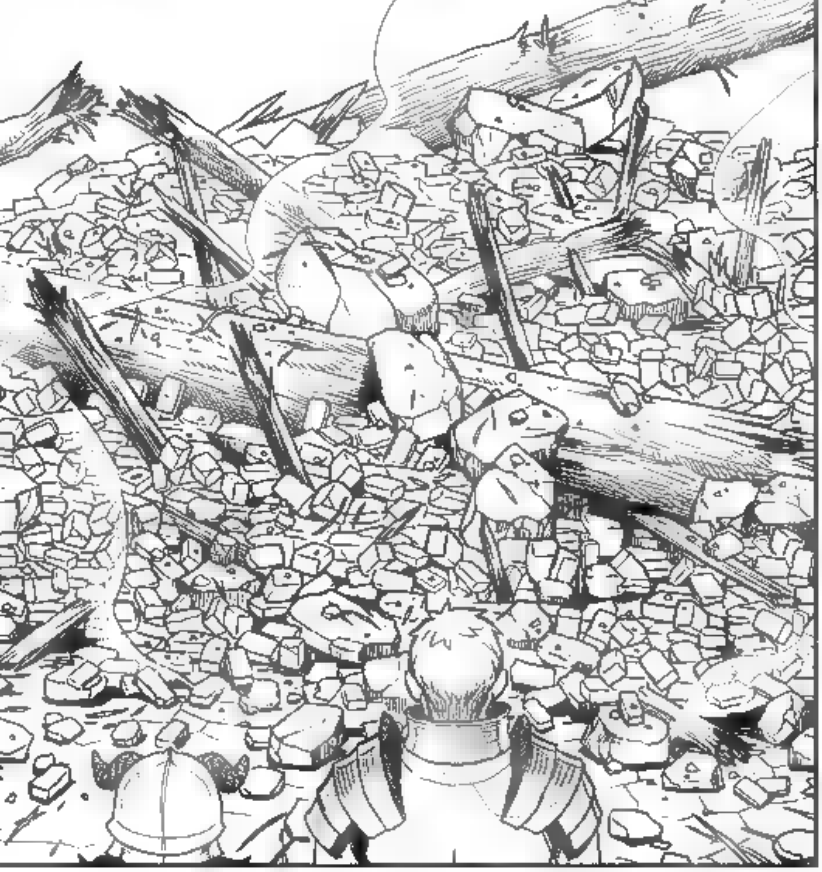
IT'S TOO SOON, ISN'T IT?
MAYBE THEY EXHAUSTED ALL ITS FIRE...

WHAT!? NO WAY! ALREADY !?

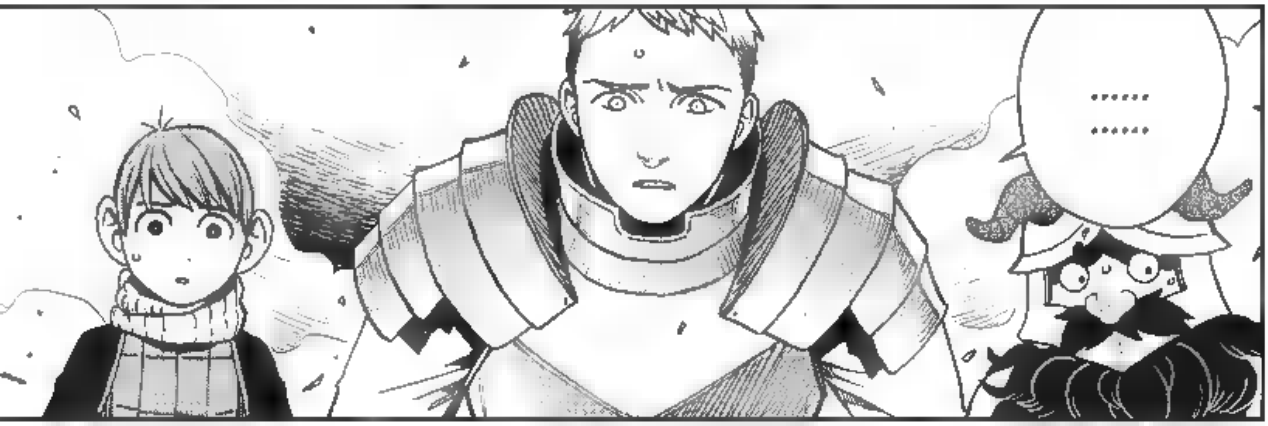
HUH? WHAT?
WEREN'T THEY GOING TO SPLIT UP!?
SHOULD I STICK TO THE PLAN OR WHAT!?
DO
DO (THUD)
DO

AAARGH! I DON'T GET IT!
I'M JUST GOING TO DO IT, ALL RIGHT!?

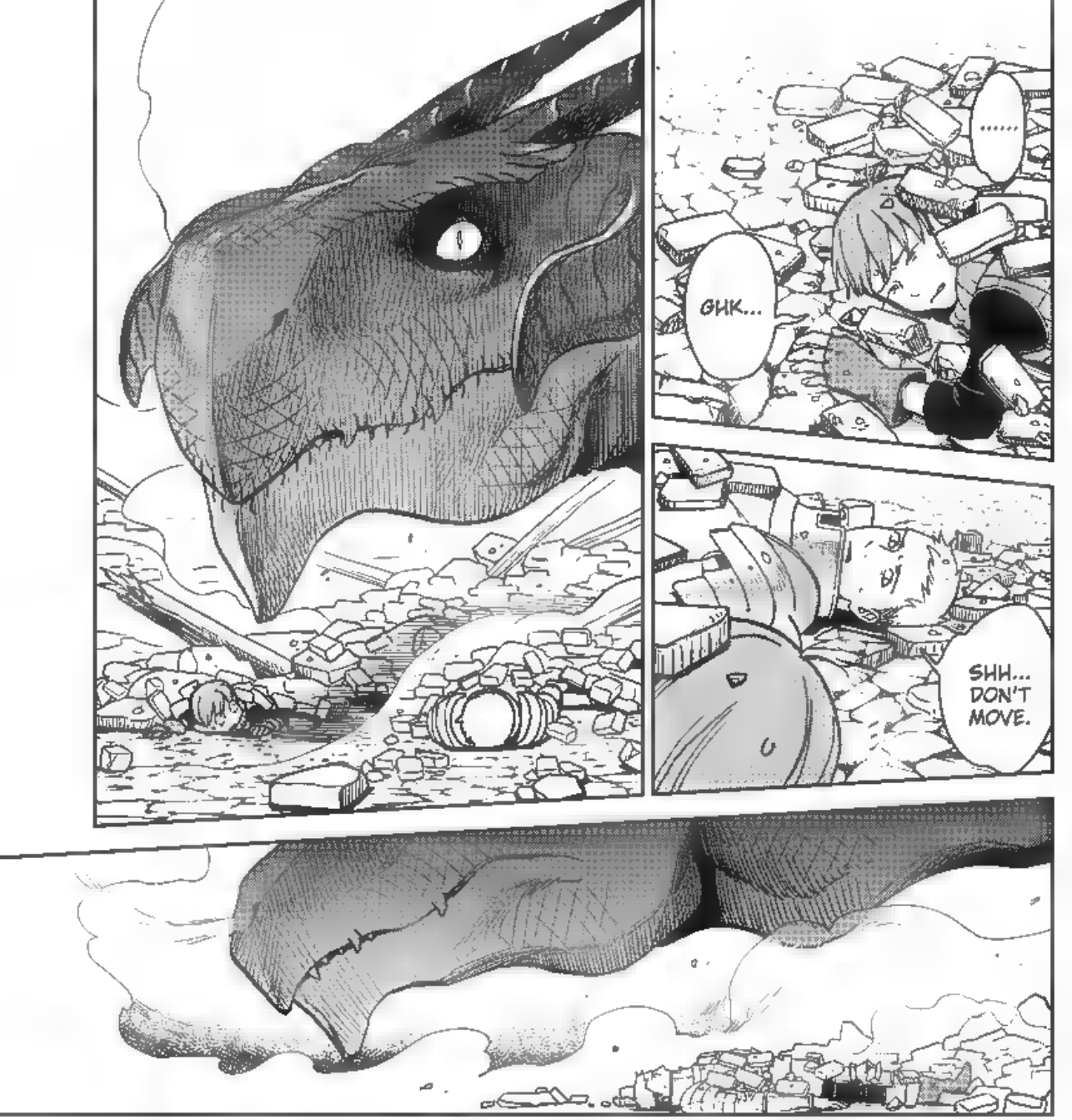




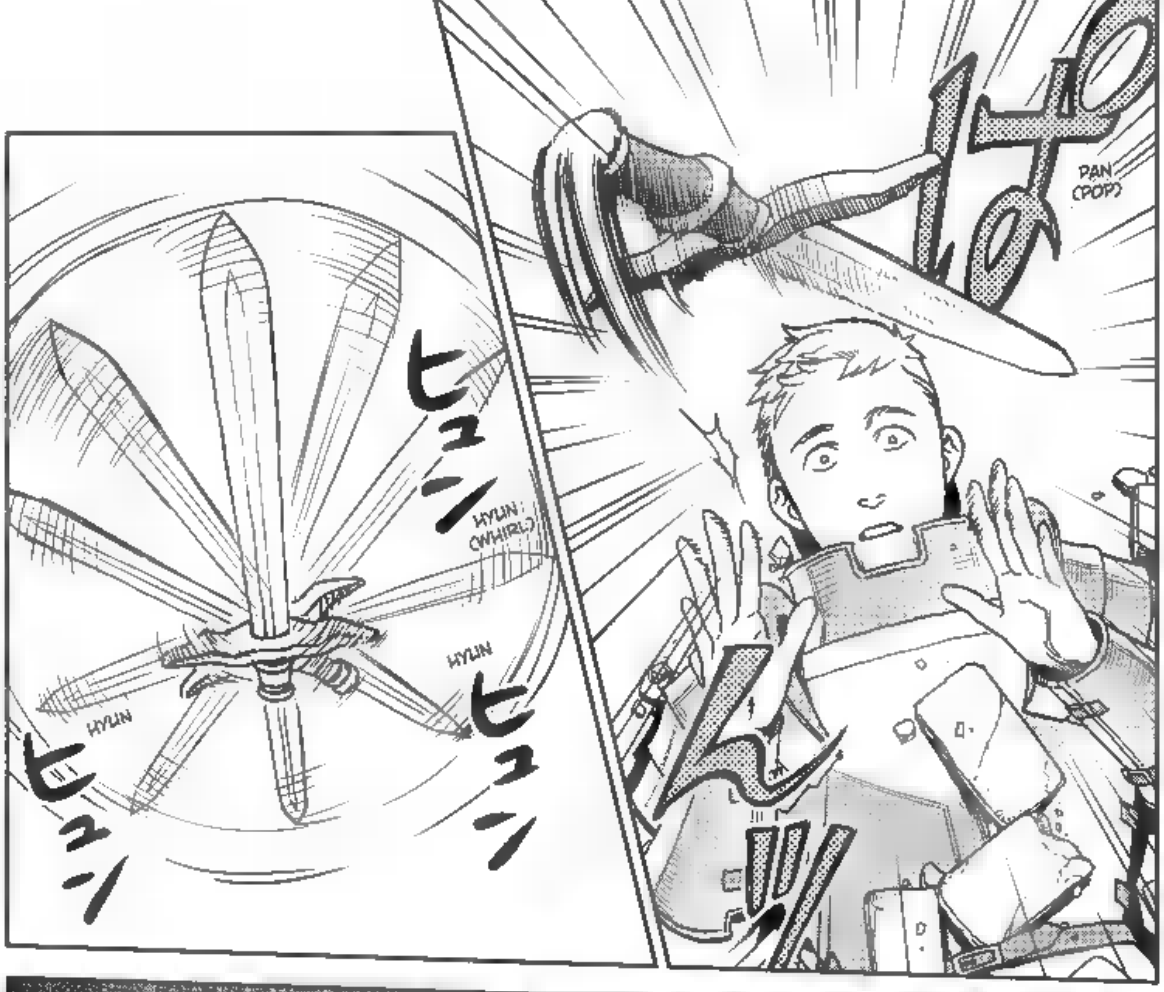
NH...

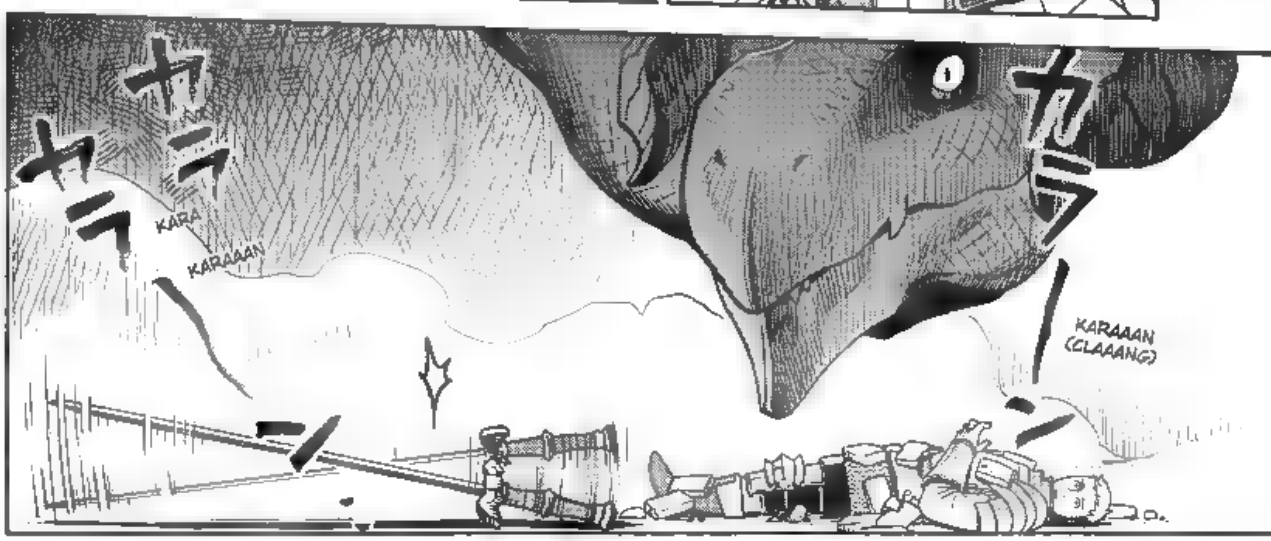

.....
.....

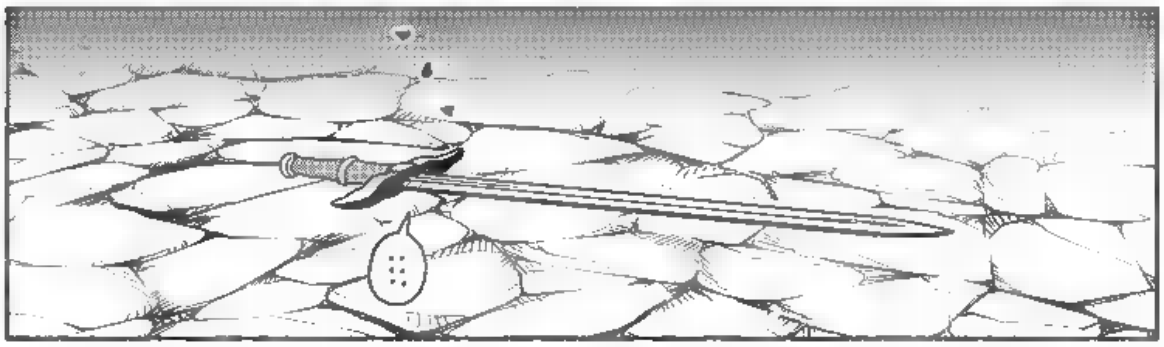
WAAUGH!
OH NO, NO, NO...!!
IT DIDN'T EVEN FAZE IT!!

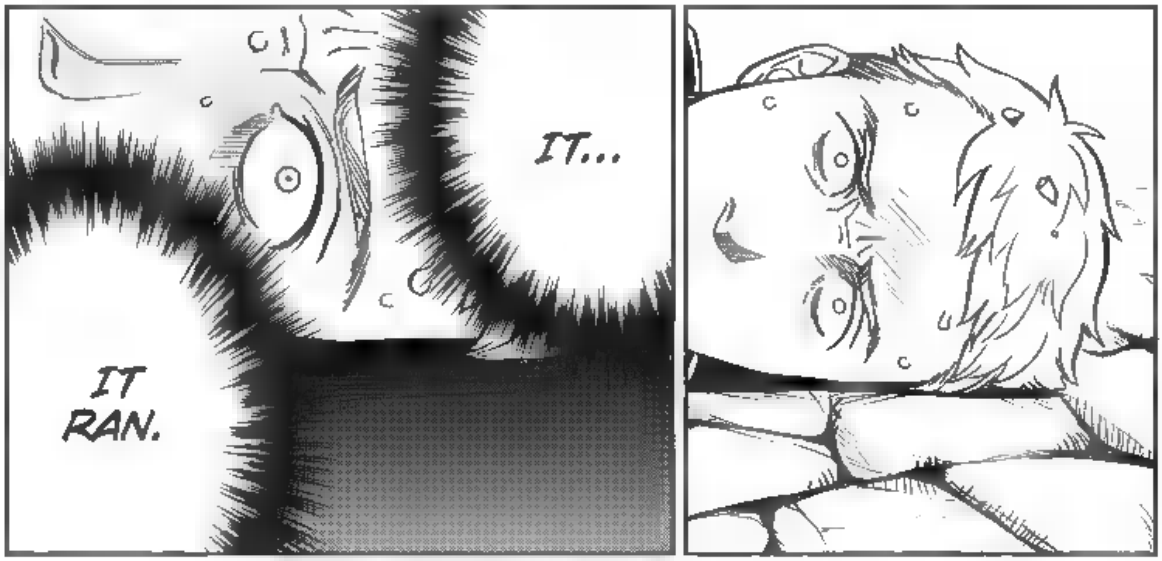

.....
GHK...
SHH... DON'T MOVE.

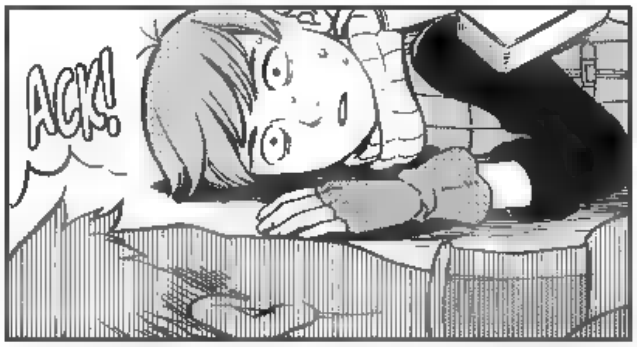
カタ
KATA
KATA
カタ
ガタ
GATA (SHIVER)
...I CAN REACH IT...!
KATA (SHAKE)
カタ
THE INVERSE SCALE IS RIGHT THERE.
IF I GET JUST A LITTLE CLOSER...

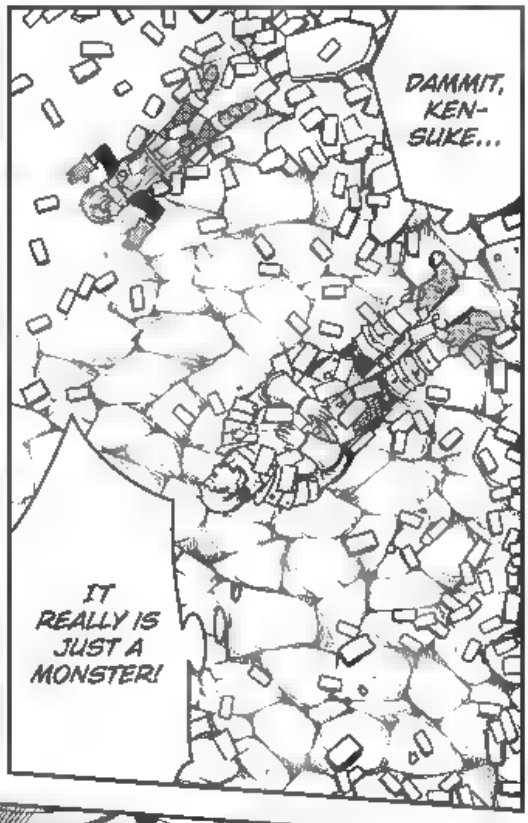

PAN (POP)
ヒュン
HYUN (WHIRL)
HYUN
ヒュン
HYUN
ヒュン


カラ
KARA
KARAAAN
KARAAAN (CLAAANG)




IT...
IT RAN.


ACK!


DAMMIT, KEN-SUKE...
IT REALLY IS JUST A MONSTER!

...YOU—
LAIOS!! CHIL-CHUCK!!

LOOK UP!
ON YOUR FEET!!

KAN CLICK
KAN

GET UNDER ITS BELLY!

ARGH! THE COMMON TONGUE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH SWEAR WORDS!
AHH... I'M BEING CUSSED OUT IN A LANGUAGE I DON'T SPEAK.
AND IT'S REALLY CRUDE STUFF!

LAIOS, YOU SLIMY LITTLE...
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY, OKAY!?

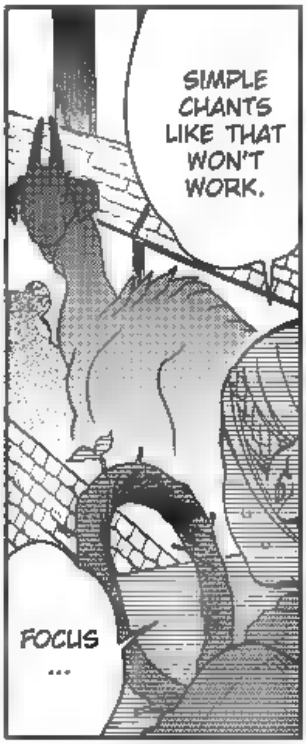
BWOOOOO (LOOOOM)
DON (BOOM)
IT'S MAD. IT'S REALLY MAD.
ZUDON (STOMP)
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
DO

PARA (CRUMBLE)

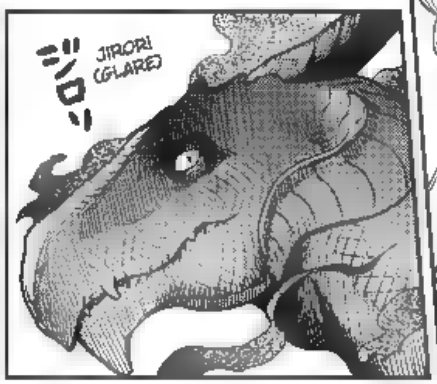
NO. TOO RISKY.
WE MIGHT BE STUCK UNDER ITS LEGS UNTIL WE DIE...

ZUSHA (GRUNCH)

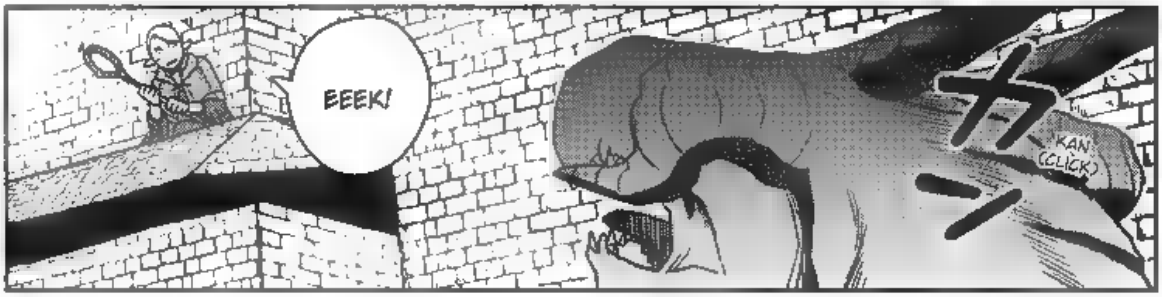
LET'S ESCAPE AT THE TAIL END.


SIMPLE CHANTS LIKE THAT WON'T WORK.
FOCUS ...

PAN (BLAM)
PA

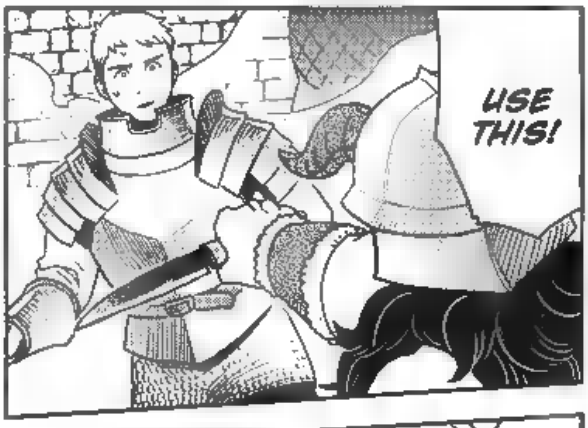

JIROR! (GLARE)

HANG ON! I'LL DO SOME-THING!


EEEK!
KAN (CLICK)

HRMPH!

NN!
GUSHA (SMASH)
BUON (SWIPE)
YAGH!
GU (SHFF)
... THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
OUR ONLY WEAPON'S IN SPLINTERS...
WHAT DO WE DO NOW!?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT!?


USE THIS!

HUH ...?
SO IT IS SOME SPECIAL METAL!?

IT'S A MITHRIL KITCHEN KNIFE. MAYBE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD.
IT CUTS THE BONE AND SKIN OF ANY MONSTER.
I'VE TAKEN GOOD CARE OF IT. NEVER MISSED A DAY...

I WISH WE'D SHOWN THIS TO NAMARI.
SHE MIGHT HAVE KILLED SENSHI.
HAAAH...
I DID GET THAT FEELING, SO I KEPT QUIET.

MITHRIL...!?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

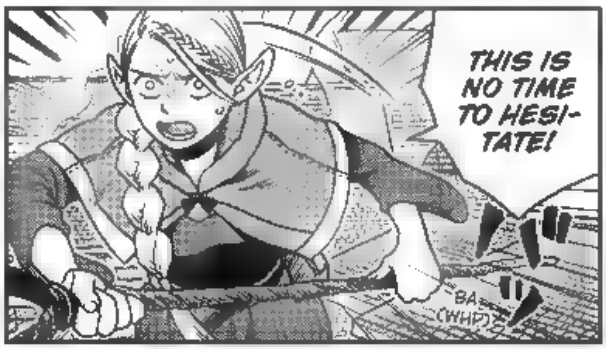
TCH!
GUWA (LUNGE)
WHY, YOU...!
WHOA!
IT REALLY DOES PIERCE DRAGON SCALES!!
PO (SHUNK)

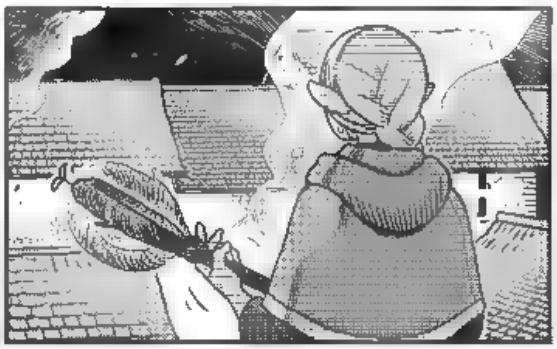
BUT WITH A BLADE THIS SIZE, NO MATTER WHERE I CUT IT...
...I'M NOT SURE I CAN INFLICT A LETHAL WOUND...
.....
GRAAA
AAA
WAAUH!
DOON (BOOM)
AAAGH!

## 25. Red Dragon III

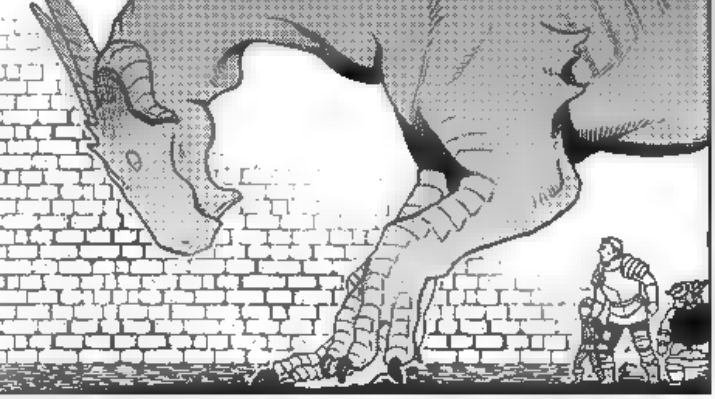
THE PLAN FAILED, RIGHT?
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO?

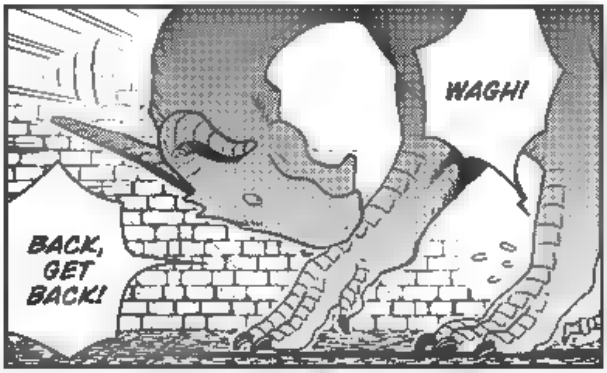
WHAT IN THE WORLD SHOULD I...?
OR DO THEY HAVE ANOTHER PLAN?


THIS IS NO TIME TO HESI-TATE!
BA (WHP)

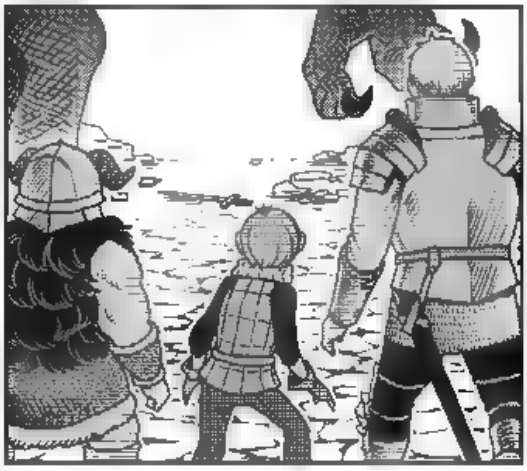


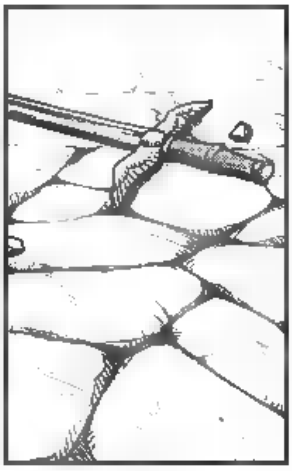
I WONDER IF THEY'RE OKAY.
I HOPE MY DEFENSE MAGIC IS HOLDING UP...



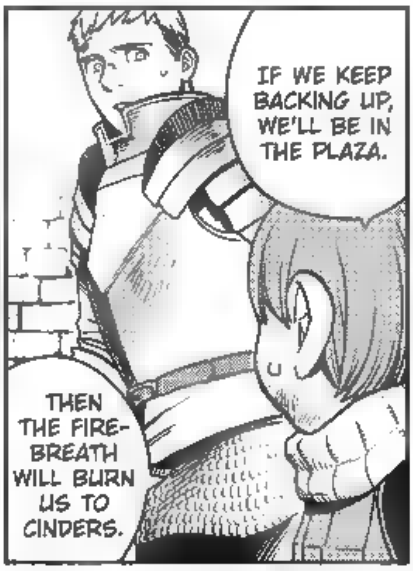

WAGH!
BACK, GET BACK!

HFF!
HFF!
MY WEAPON'S GETTING FARTHER AWAY.





...I'LL DISTRACT THE DRAGON.


IF WE KEEP BACKING UP, WE'LL BE IN THE PLAZA.
THEN THE FIRE-BREATH WILL BURN US TO CINDERS.

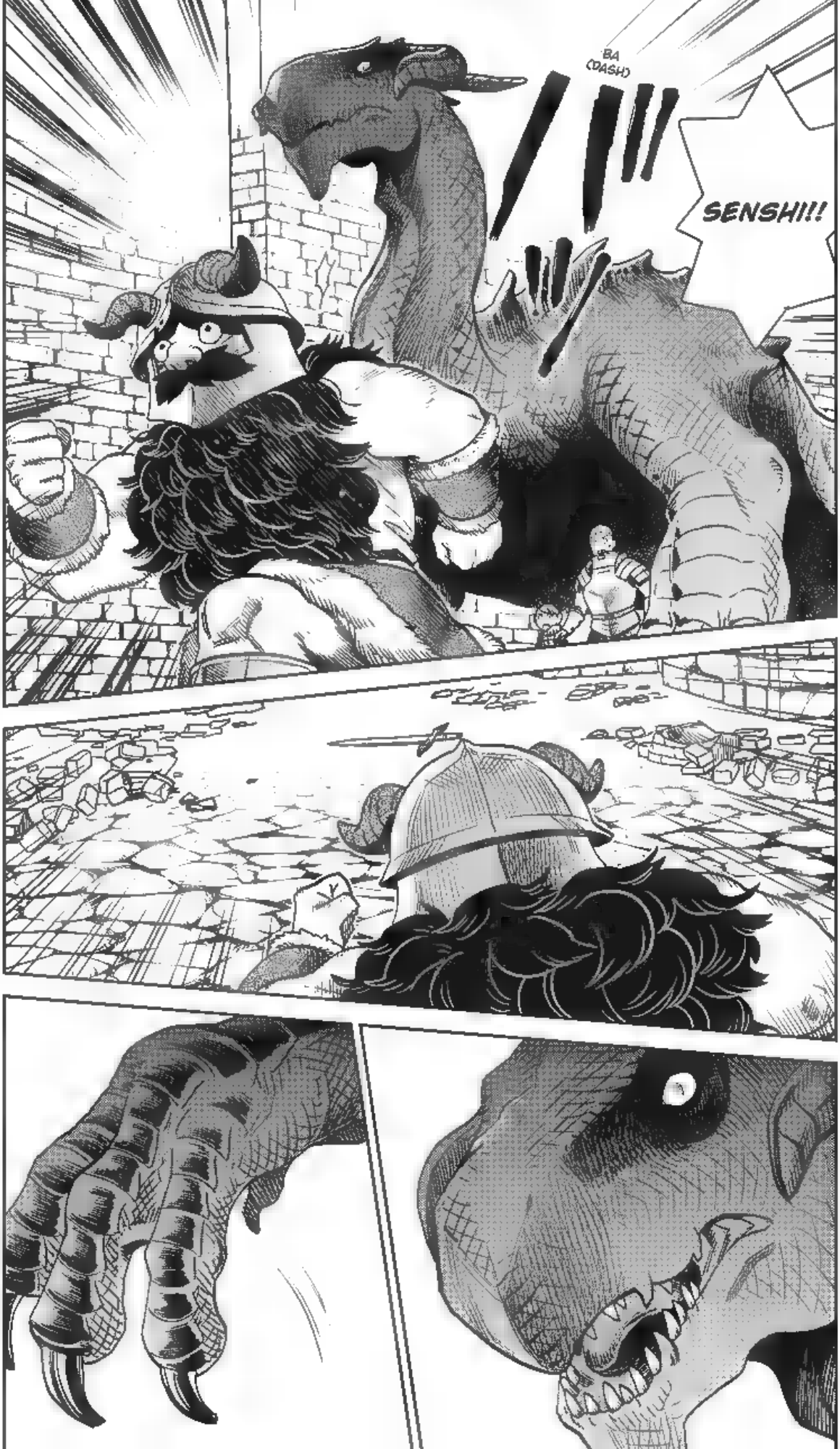
LAIOS, I KNOW YOU KNOW THIS.

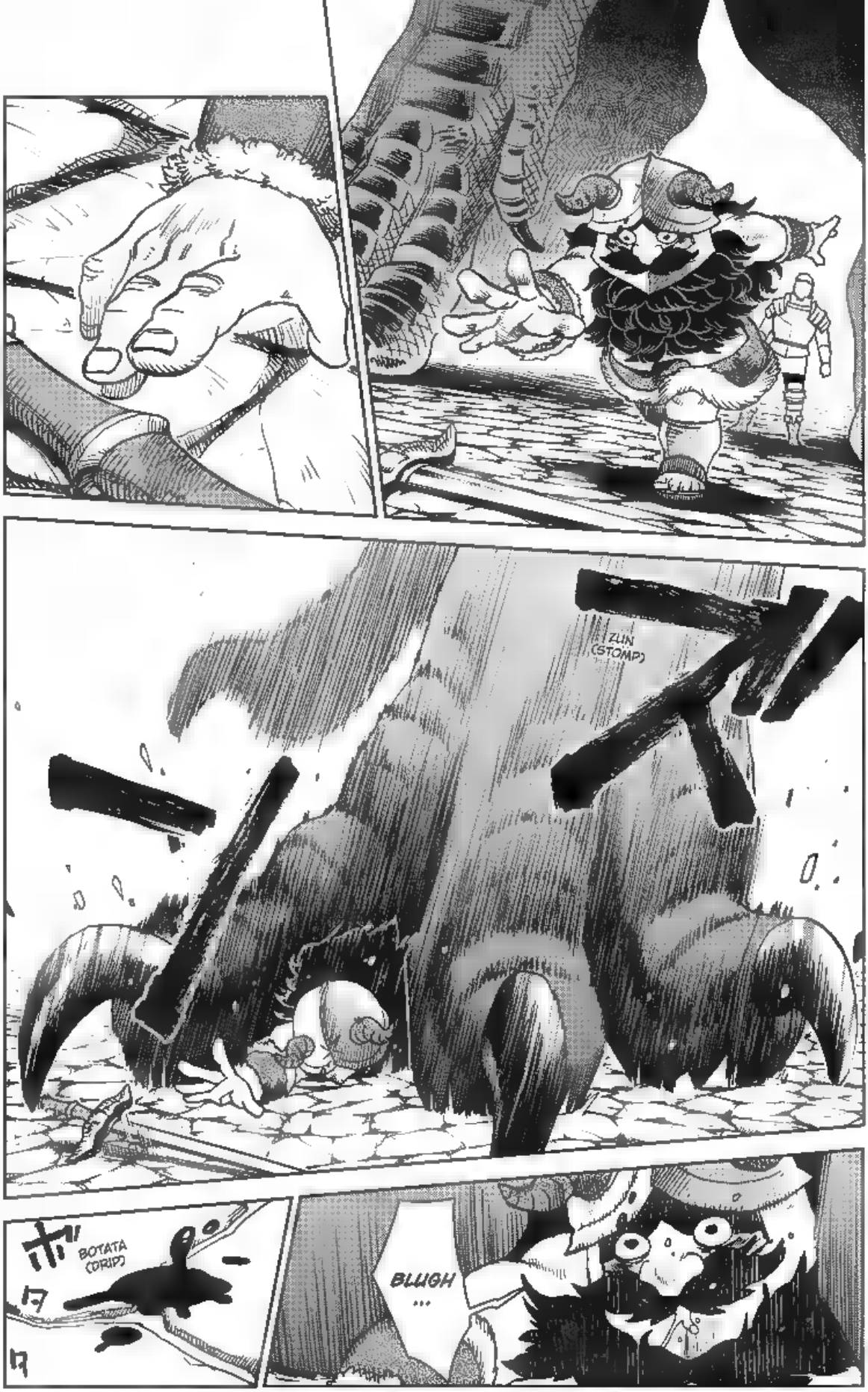
DON'T! IT'S DANGER-OUS.

IT'S EAT OR BE EATEN HERE.
IF WE DON'T GIVE IT ALL WE'VE GOT, WE'RE THE ONES WHO'LL GET EATEN.

OF THE MONSTERS WE'VE EATEN...
...DID ANY OF THEM NOT FIGHT WITH ALL THEY HAD?

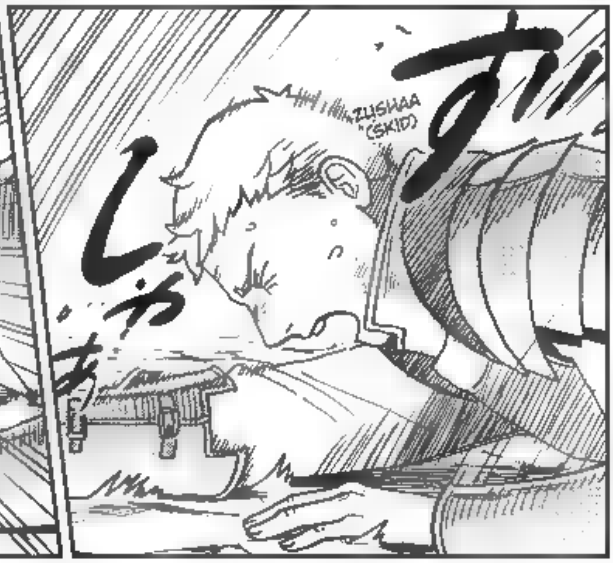
PREPARE YOURSELVES!


BA
(DASH)
SENSHI!!!


ZUN
(STOMP)
BOTATA
(DRIP)
BLUGH
...

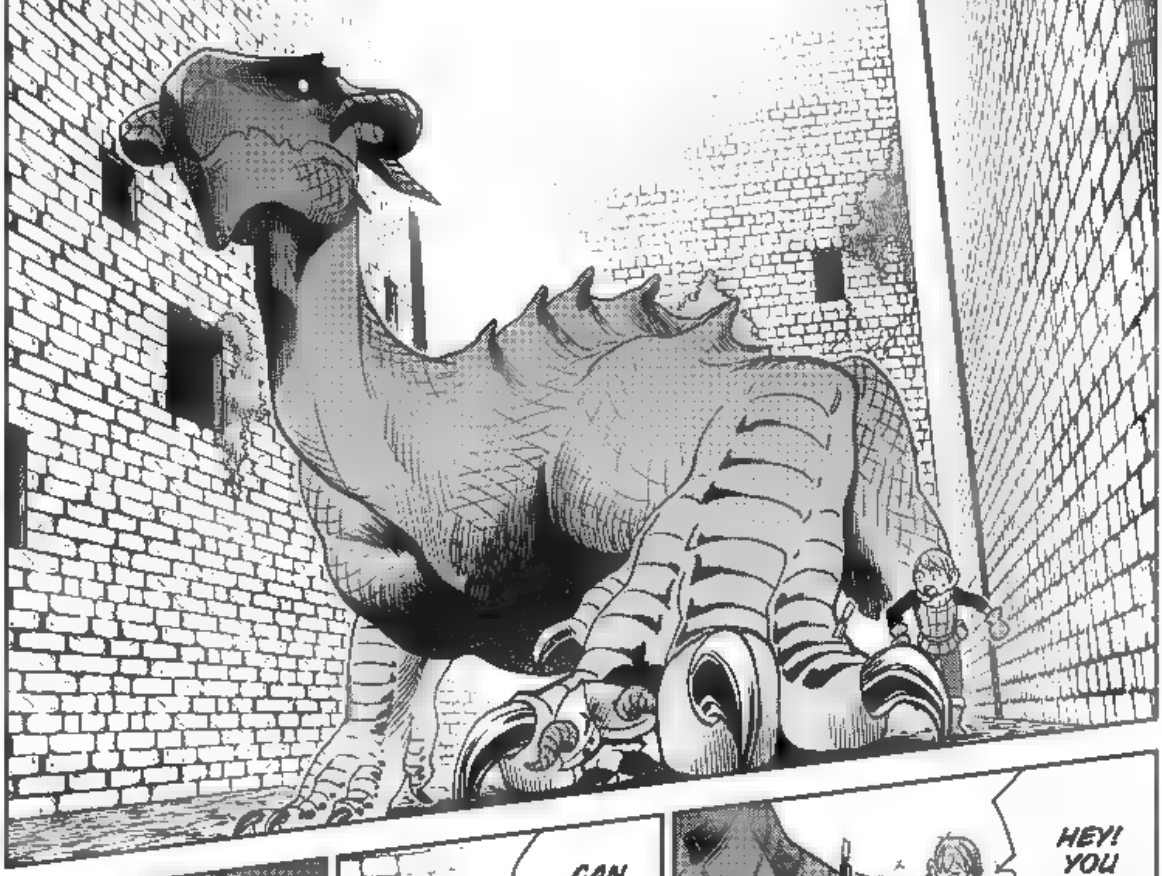
GA (TRIP)
SEN...

UNGH!
ZUMU (TROMP)


ZUSHAA (SKID)

YOU FALL BACK...
...GET MARCILLE, AND DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS!

MORON! IF YOU DASH OUT THERE, THERE'S NO POINT!
I'LL CREATE AN OPENING!



GU
(STRAIN)

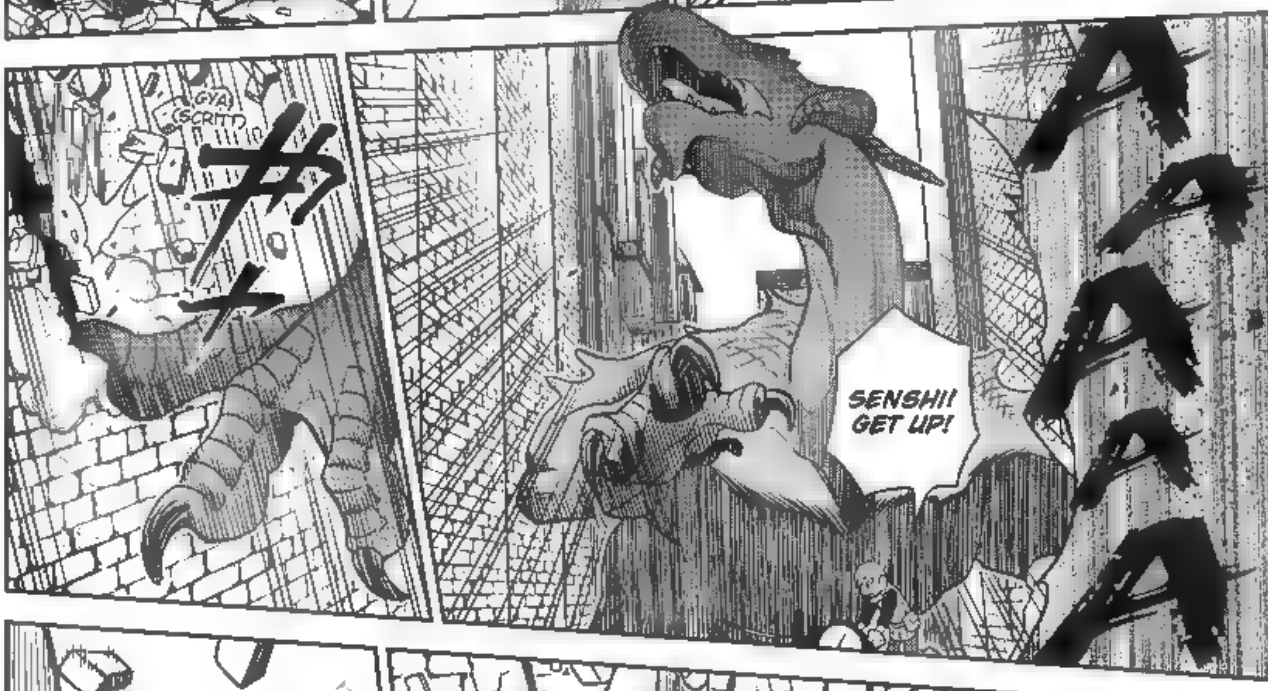
CAN YOU MOVE?
.....

HEY! YOU ALIVE!?
I'LL GET THIS OFF OF YOU!

DO (SHUNK)
GE
EA
YES!

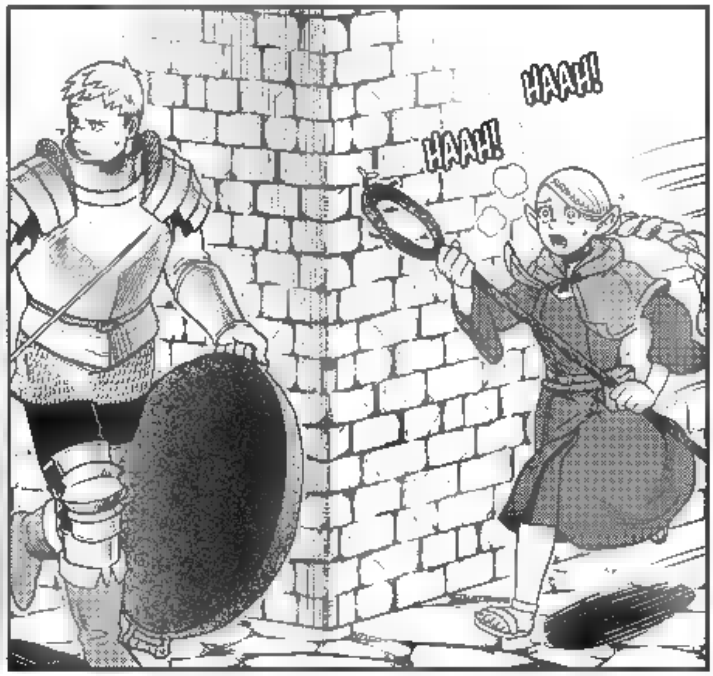
GASHAA (SMASH)
PASHI (SNATCH)
LAIOS!
IT'S STUCK TO THE GROUND ...!
HUH!?
GU (STRAIN)
GU
BUCHI (SNAP)
BUCHI
GUWA (WRENCH)
MOVE!

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
GA (THUNK)


GYA (SCRITT)
SENSHI! GET UP!

UKH!
GO (WHUNK)

AH!
(DON)
(WHUD)


HAAH!
HAAH!

IT'S BAD.
WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT SPELL'S WORKING. GREAT.
ALL OUR PLANS FAILED.

SORRY, MAR-CILLE!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.

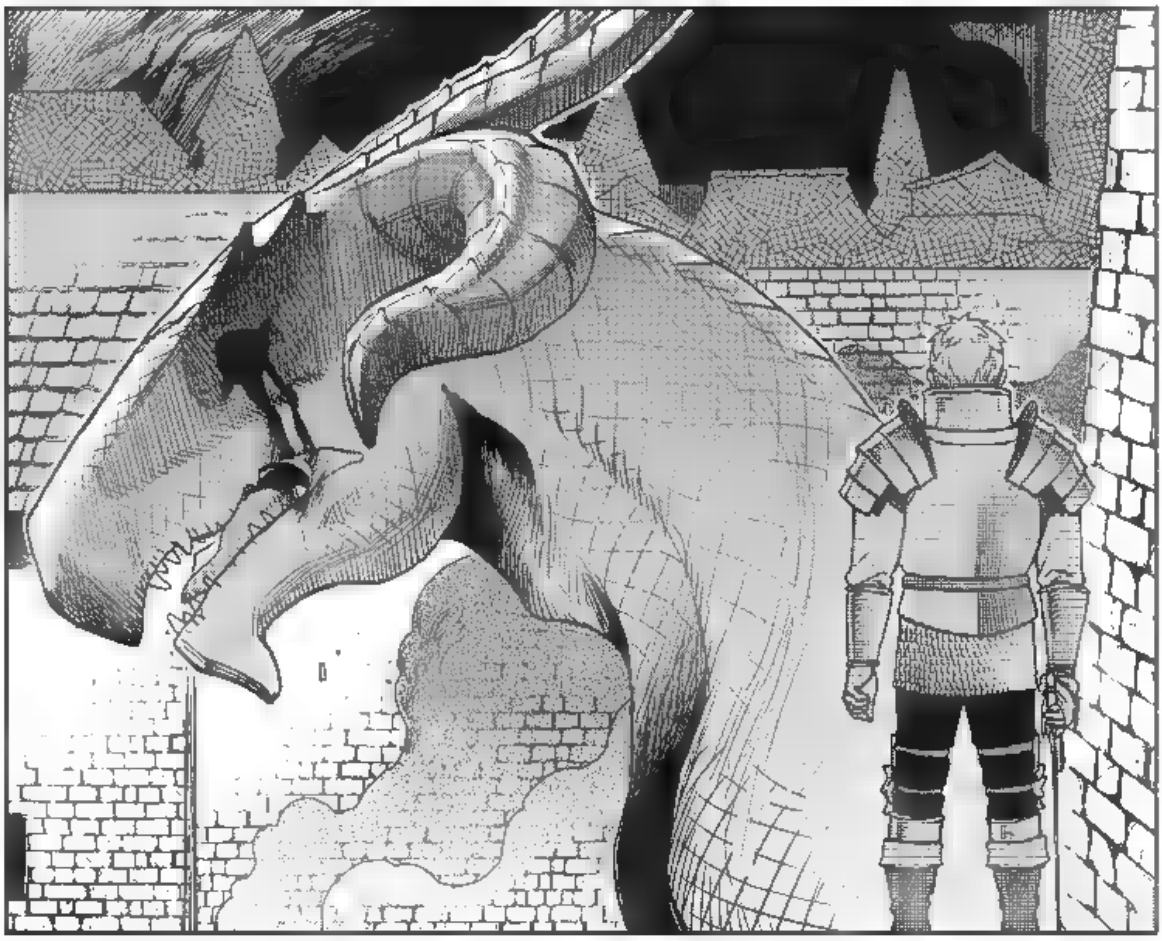
B-BUT WE HAVE TO ACT FAST, OR...
HANG ON. I'M THINK-ING.

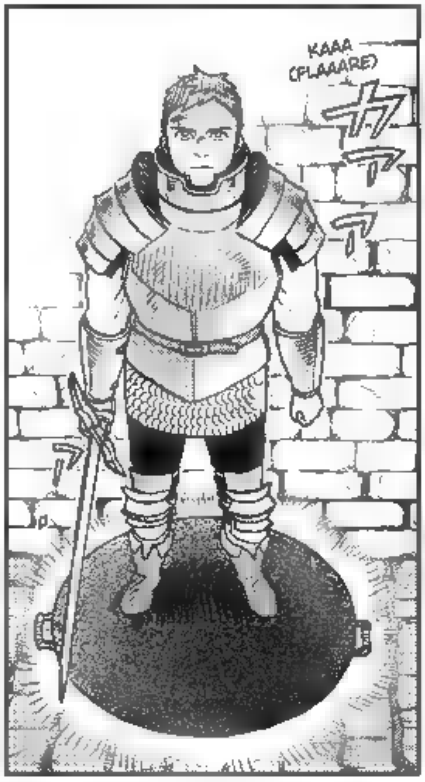
WH... WH-WH-WHAT DO WE DO!?
OH, I SEE! MY SPELLS ARE ALL WE HAVE!
THE DRAGON'S WOUNDED AND VIOLENT. IT'S DANGEROUS TO GET CLOSE OR LET IT SEE US.

THEY'RE BY THE DRAGON'S FEET, OUT COLD.
WHAT!?

KEN-SUKE.
EXPLO-SIVE SPELLS ...
USE THE POT SOME-HOW...
GET THAT INVERSE SCALE...
WH-WHAT ARE WE DOING?
WE'LL GET LEVEL WITH THE DRAGON'S FACE.
...OKAY.
LET'S HEAD UP-STAIRS.
...AND YOU BLOW IT UP, MARCILLE.
WHA... WHAT!?
I'LL STAND ON THE POT...
HUH?

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO JUMP ON UN-NOTICED.
BUT...
BURUN (SHAKE)
ITS LEFT EYE IS BLINDED.
IF WE APPROACH FROM THE LEFT, IT WON'T SEE US.
HOW CAN YOU STRIKE THE INVERSE SCALE IF YOU'RE ON TOP OF ITS HEAD?
AND AFTER THAT?
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
BUT I HAD WATER AND WATER-WALK THEN...
THIS TIME WE'VE GOT DEFENSE SPELLS AND A POT.
YOU DID THIS BEFORE, REMEM-BER?
WHEN WE FOUGHT THE UNDINE.
I DON'T INTEND TO.
...WE CAN'T MAKE ANY MORE MISTAKES.



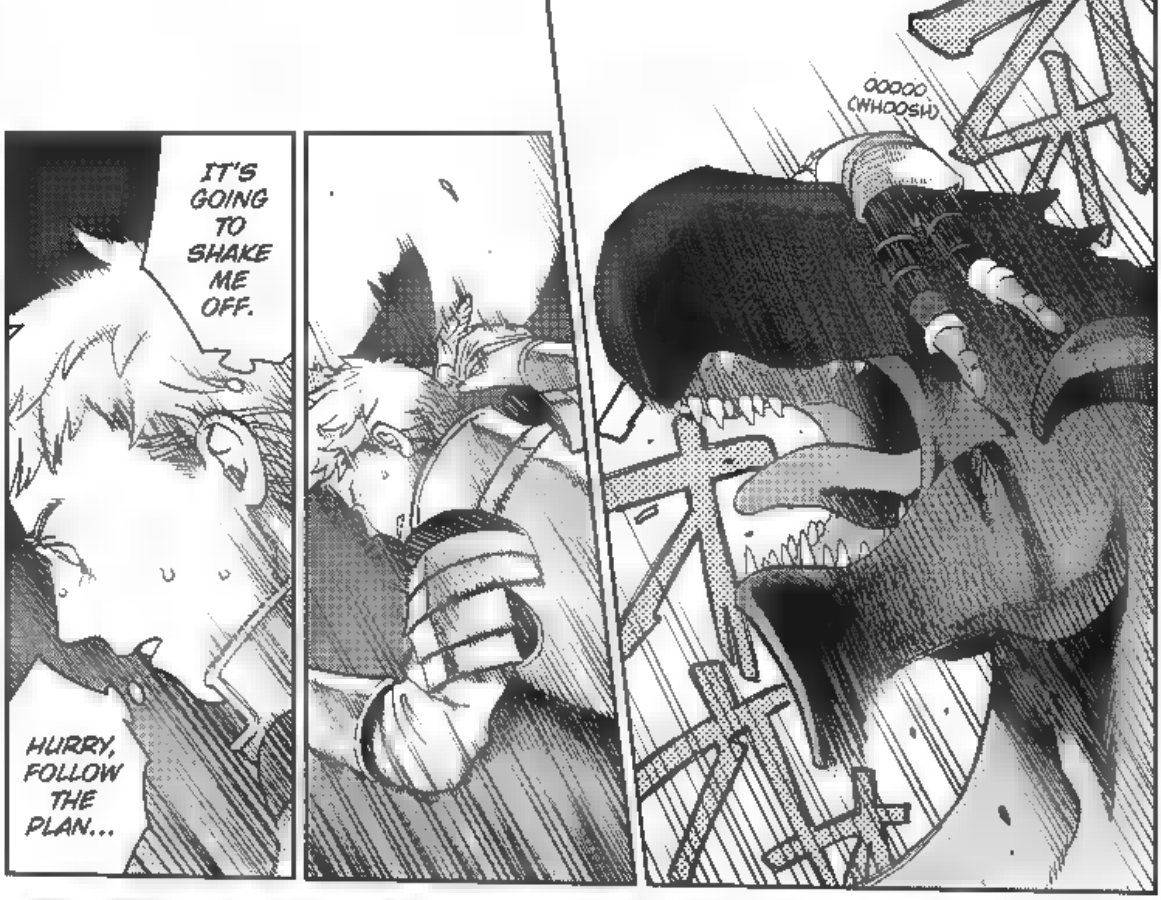

KAAA (PLAAARE)

OKAY. I TRUST YOU!

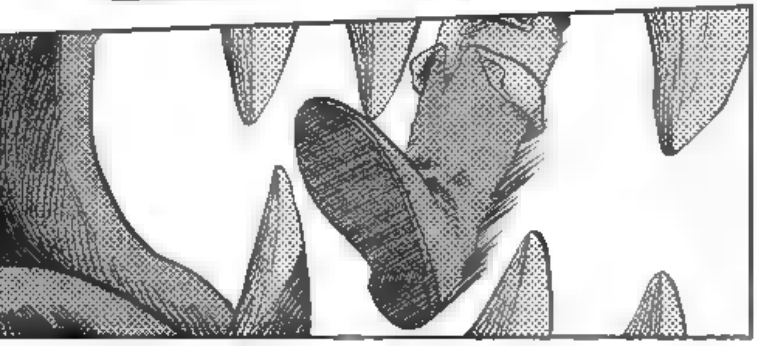
WE'RE REALLY DOING THIS?
YOU DO HAVE AN ACTUAL PLAN, RIGHT?

DON (BLAND)
GASHII (GRAB)

BUDOOO (ROARRR)
MISHI (GRIND)
GHK!
ZUN (WHUD)
MMGF ...!

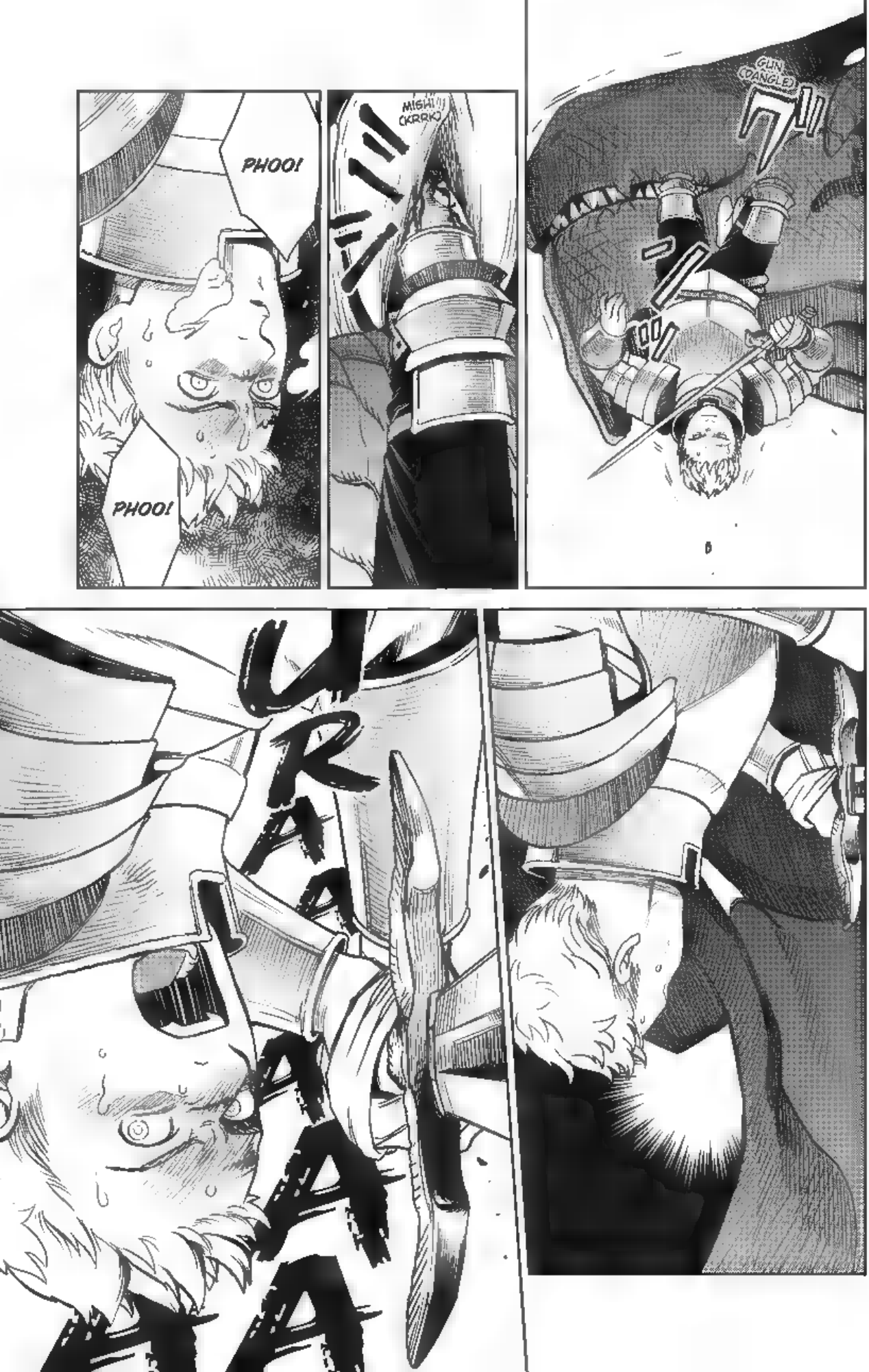

IT'S GOING TO SHAKE ME OFF.
HURRY, FOLLOW THE PLAN...
OOOOO (WHOOSH)

IT'LL BE OVER FAST.
IT'S NOTHING BIG.

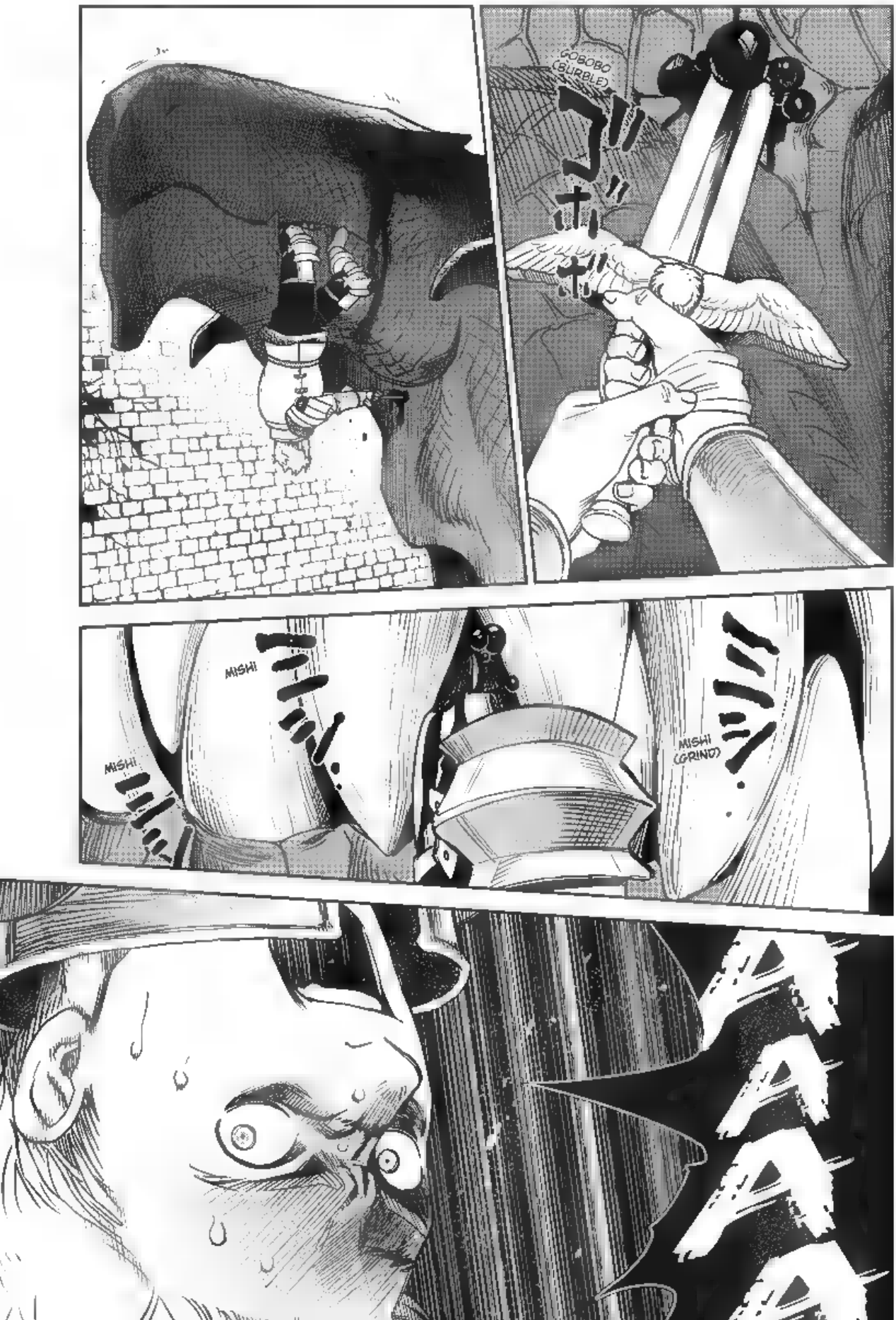


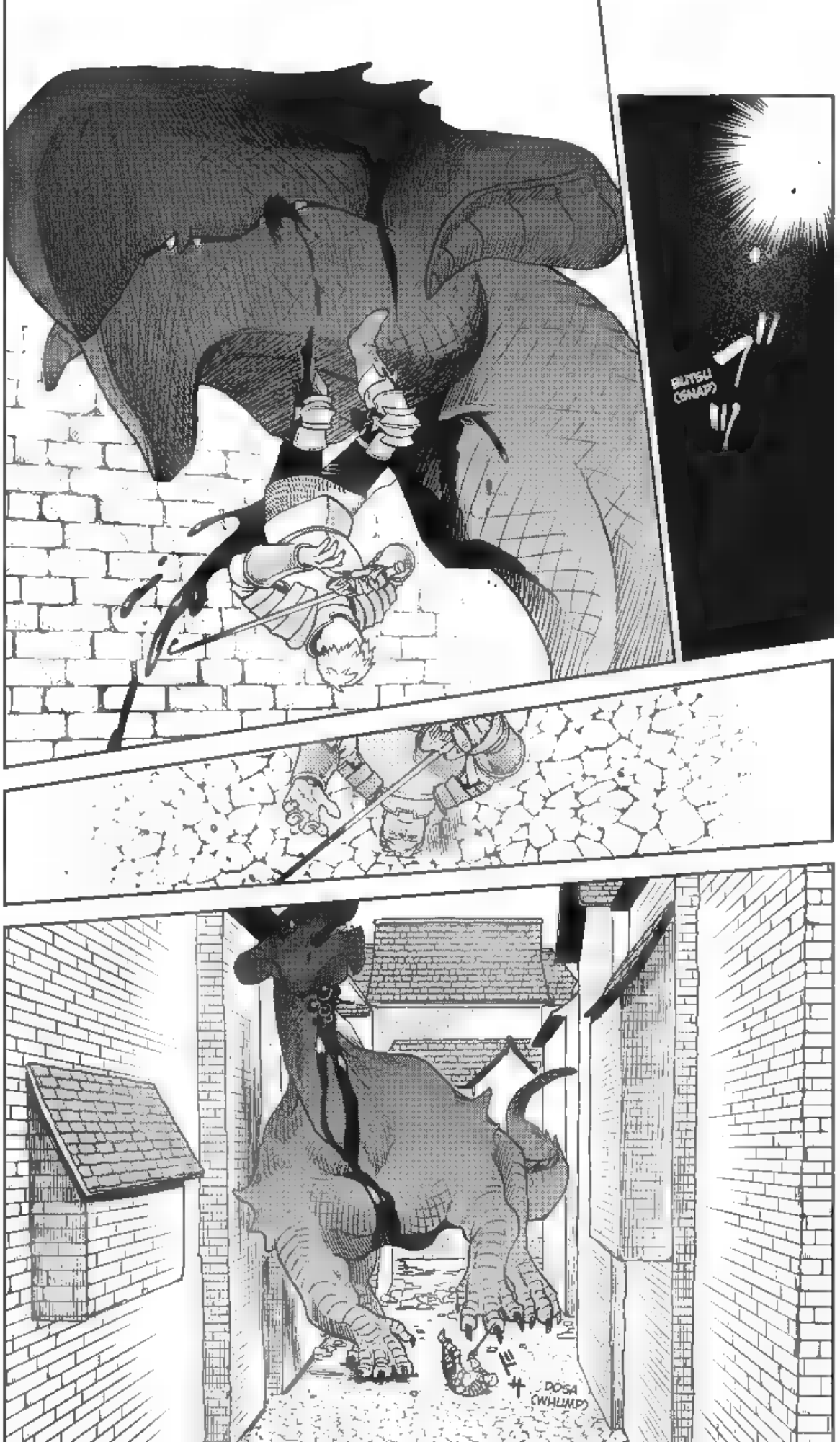
NOT COMPARED WITH FALIN'S PAIN.

GACHIN
(SNAP)
—!
LAIOS!
FU
(SLIP)

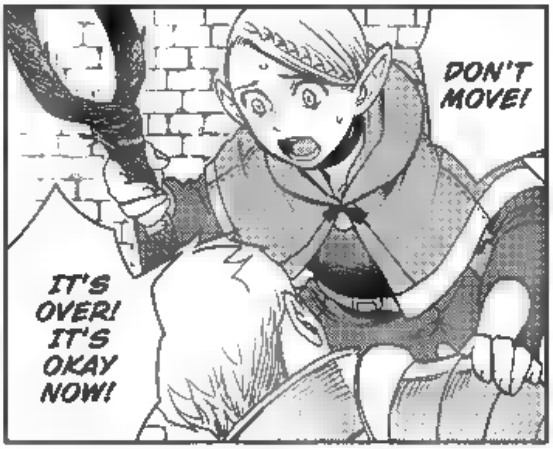

PHOO!
PHOO!
MISHI
(KRRK)
GUN
(CANGLE)
URAAA

(SHUNK)


GOBOBO (BURBLE)
MISHI
MISHI
MISHI (GRIND)

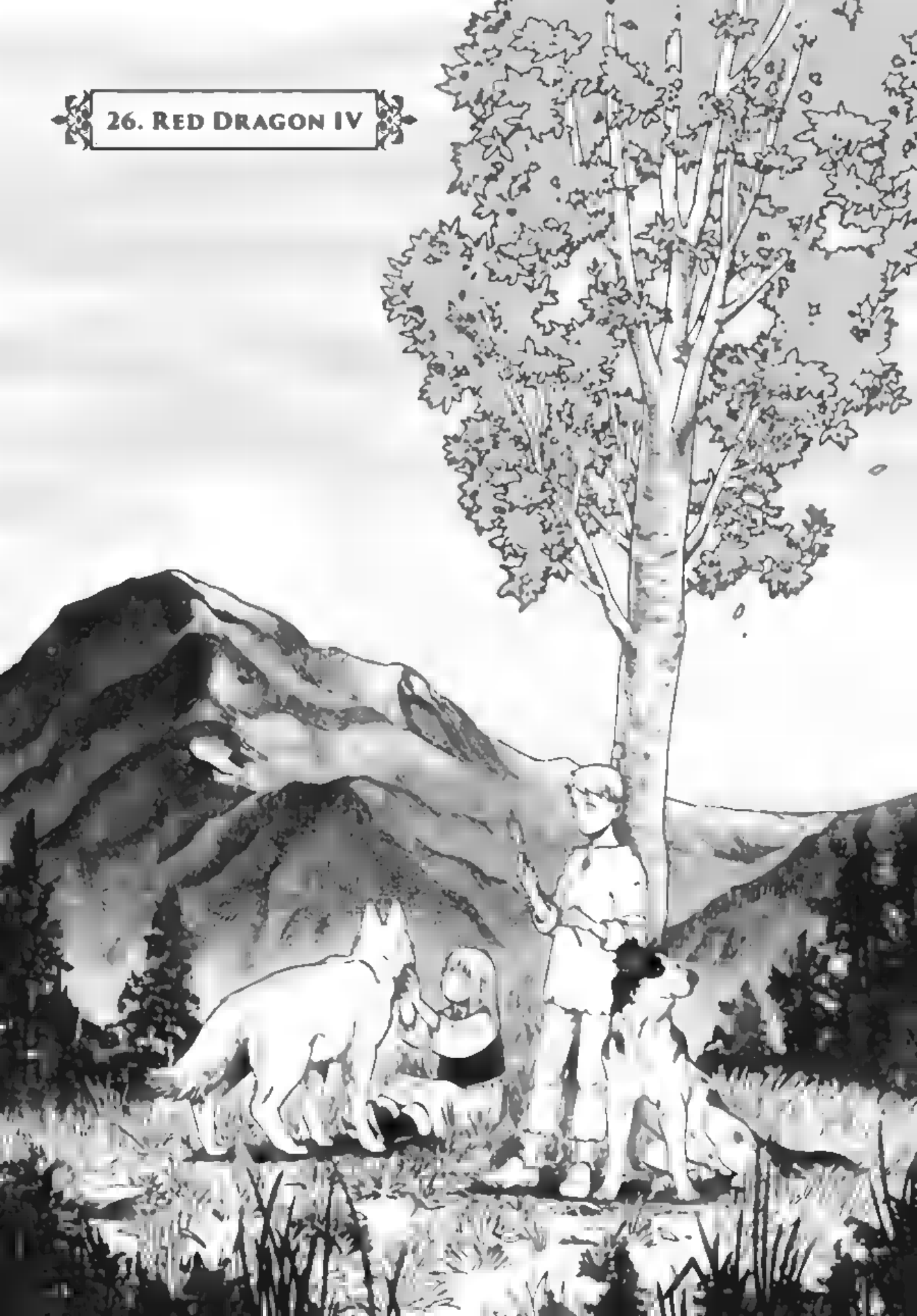

BUTSU (SNAP)
DOSA (WHUMP)

ZUUNN (WHUDDD)



CHAPTER 25: THE END

# 26. Red Dragon IV



SHH! C'MERE.

BIG BROTHER LAIOS?
WHY ARE YOU OUTSIDE OF FATHER'S ROOM?
FALIN.

SHOULD ALL PITCH IN AND HIRE A SHAMAN FROM TOWN.
YOU CAN'T TRUST SHAMANS.
BUT THAT'S EXPENSIVE...
CHIEF TOLIDEN, IT WAS DEAD FOR SURE.
IT ATTACKS THE LIVING BECAUSE IT ENVIES THEM.

MY WIFE SAYS SHE SAW IT TOO.

YOU MIGHT GET HURT IF YOU TAG ALONG.

I'LL GO LOOK. I'VE NEVER SEEN A GHOST.

THEY SAY THERE'S A GHOST IN THE GRAVEYARD.

RUN!
WAIT, LAIOS!

AGH! SHH!
ARF!
WOOF!

WHEEEEE!

...

DON'T CLING. IT'S HARD TO WALK.

IT'LL BE FINE.

BIG BROTHER...

LET'S GO HOME, FALIN.
GYU (SQUEEZE)
ギュッ

NOT EVEN A BUG.

BIG BROTHER! BIG BROTHER!
カラン
KARAN (CLATTER)
WAAAH!

Get it off...
Help me...
IT'S COLD.
I CAN'T BREATHE.

Get it off...
Help me...

ARF! WOOF!
LAIOS!

FALIN...
RUN...

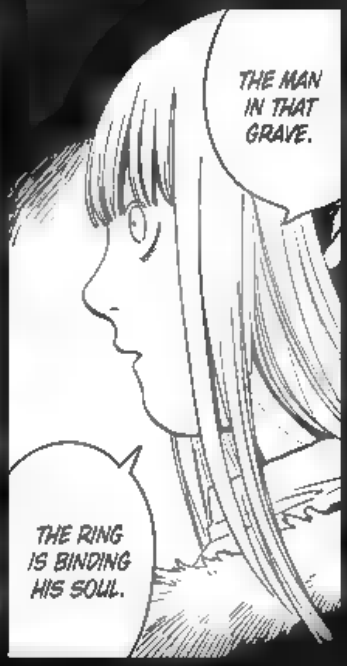
LET MY BROTHER...

HAAFH...
HAAFH...

...GO!

AAAA
GGA

TAKE IT OFF FOR HIM.
THE GHOST WILL BE SET FREE.


THE MAN IN THAT GRAVE.
THE RING IS BINDING HIS SOUL.

SU (POINT)
ス…

HOW DID THE CHILD...
...KNOW THAT?

WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, HE OFTEN BRAGGED...
...THAT HE'D BOUGHT A GOLD RING FROM THE ELVES.

...IT'S OLMAN'S GRAVE. HE DIED THE OTHER DAY.

A RING?
WHAT ON EARTH...?

ADULTS ARE SCARED OF MAGIC, THAT'S ALL.
DON'T LET THEM GET TO YOU.

DID I DO SOMETHING BAD?
NO, IT WAS GREAT.
YOU'VE GOT A TALENT FOR GHOST MAGIC, FALIN.

"TRAVELING EXORCIST" SOUNDS FUN.
HEE HEE!

A JOB?
SURE, LIKE... A PRIEST, MAYBE?
OR A GRAVE-KEEPER?

YOU SHOULD STUDY IT FOR REAL.
THEN YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE A JOB.

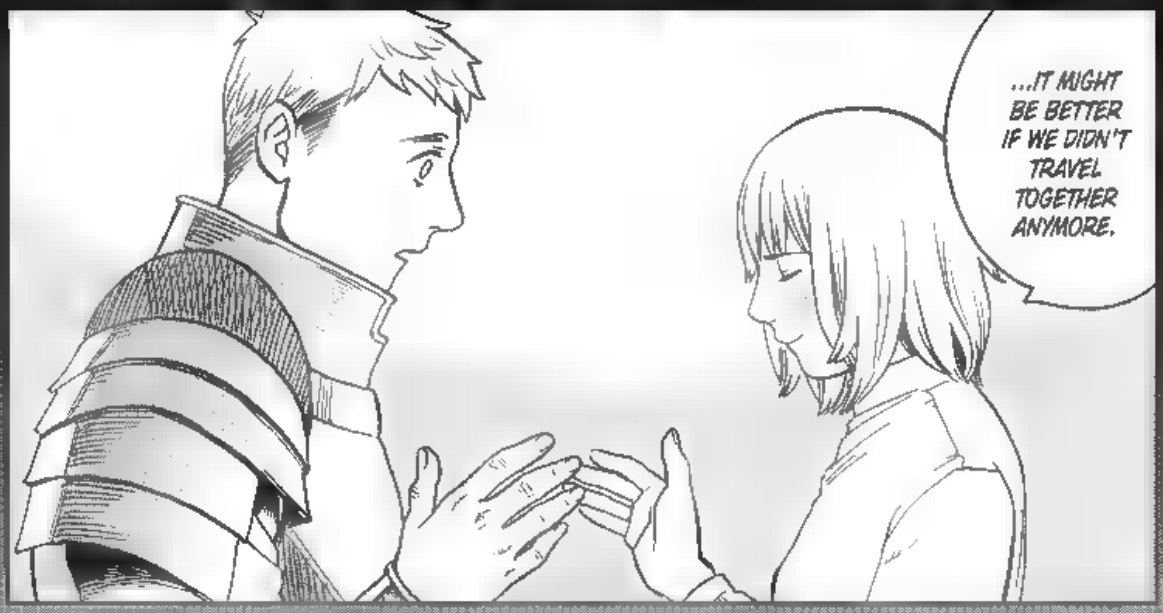
WOW, THAT DOES SOUND FUN!
WOULD YOU COME WITH ME, THEN?
OF COURSE!

YOU'D WANDER FOREIGN LANDS...
...AND SAVE PEOPLE IN TROUBLE.

BATA CHICKO
JITA CHICKO
OOOOOH! I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO GO!
BUT...

OH! THE DESERT WOULD BE FINE TOO.
I HEAR THERE'S A LAND OF TALKING DOGS THERE.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?
UMM...
I WANT TO SEE THE OCEAN.

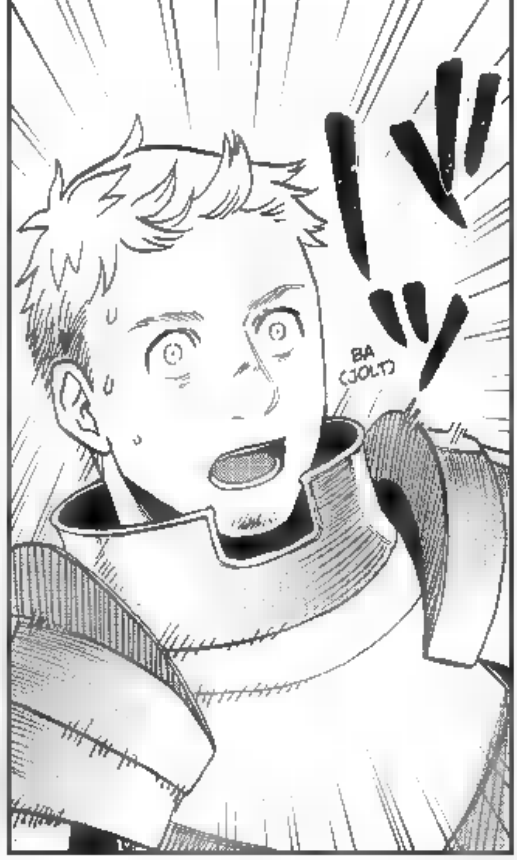

...IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF WE DIDN'T TRAVEL TOGETHER ANYMORE.

GOOD-BYE, BIG BROTHER LAIOS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

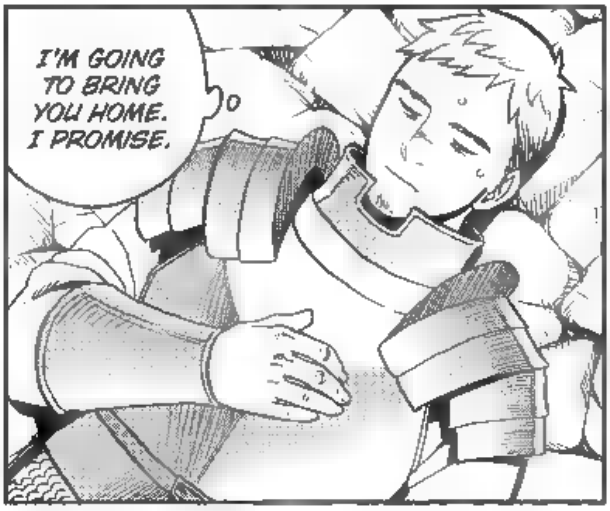
FALIN? WHY...?

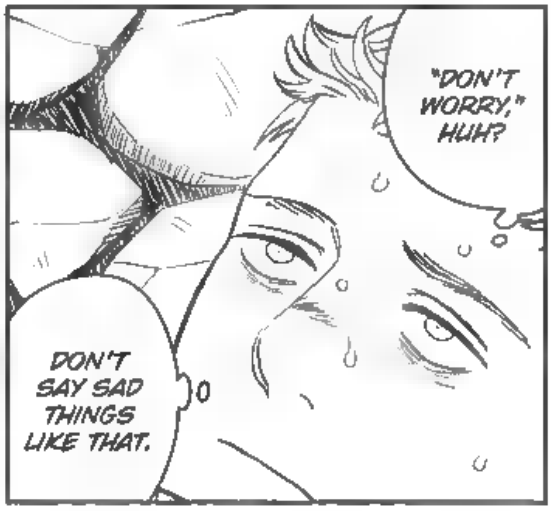
LAIOS? ARE YOU OKAY?
GYU (TUG)


BA (JOLT)

FOR NOW, I STOPPED THE BLEEDING.
HANG ON JUST A BIT LONGER.
I'LL GO FIND THE OTHER TWO.
AND YOUR LEG.

HAAH...
ZURU (SLUMP)

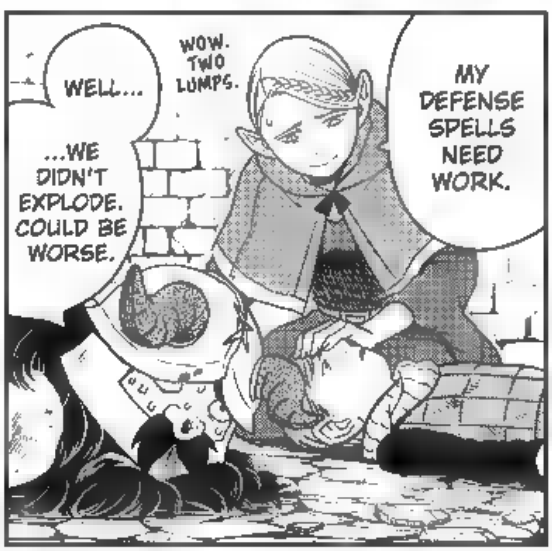

I'M GOING TO BRING YOU HOME. I PROMISE.


"DON'T WORRY," HUH?
DON'T SAY SAD THINGS LIKE THAT.

THERE YOU ARE!
WHEW! ARE YOU OKAY?

GARA (RATTLE)
ガラ
URGH...

HELLOOO? CHIL-CHUCK!
SENSHI ?


WELL...
WOW. TWO LUMPS.
MY DEFENSE SPELLS NEED WORK.
...WE DIDN'T EXPLODE. COULD BE WORSE.

...GUESS NOT, HUH?
HM.

BA (WHIP)

FUWA (GLOW)

GHK...

OWWW!

I'M FINE! I'LL HEAL ON MY OWN!

THAT WOULD TAKE MONTHS.

IT'S FINE! IT PROVES HE'S HEALED UP RIGHT!

OKAY, SENSHI, YOU'RE NEXT.

HE'S HURTING REAL BAD.

WHEN MAJOR WOUNDS HEAL QUICKLY, THE RECOVERY PANGS ARE...

GOKI (KRAK)

YAAAGH!

BOK! (POP) BOK!

BLRGH...

BONES SNAPPING INTO PLACE

HN!? B-BUT ISN'T THAT WHY IT HURT—

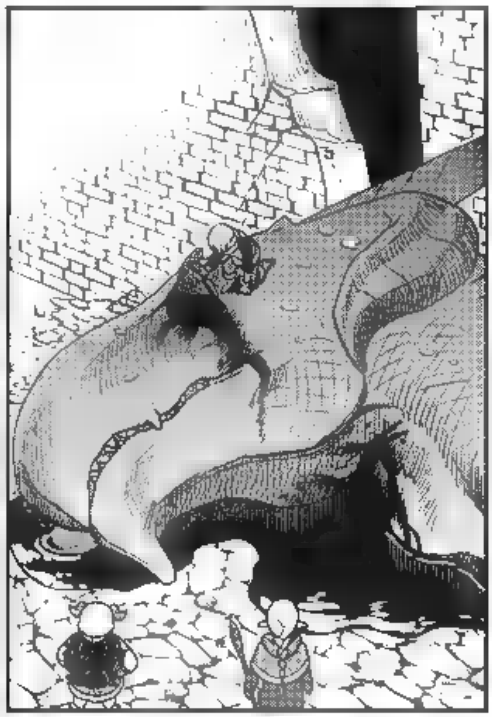
...CONFIDENCE IN MY SPEED.

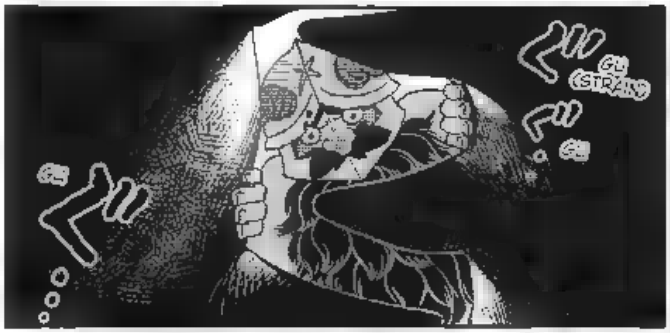
GU (GRIP)

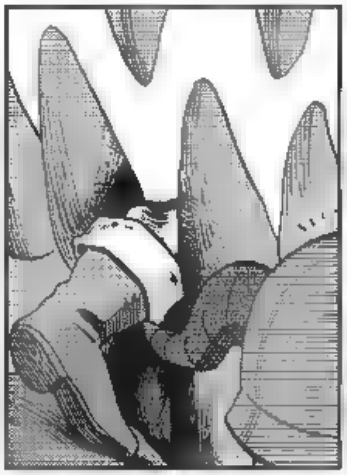
FALIN WAS ESPECIALLY GOOD AT HEALING.

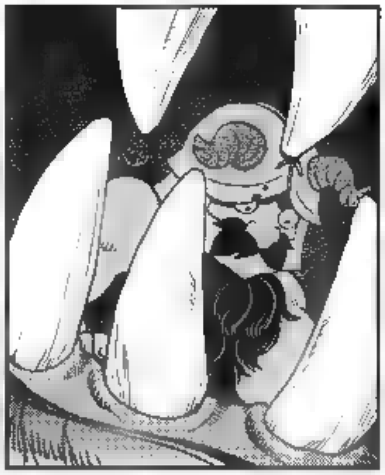
BUT EVEN I HAVE...

...YOU'RE SURE IT'S IN HERE?
YES, IF IT DIDN'T SPASM AND SWALLOW IT.




GU (STRAIN)





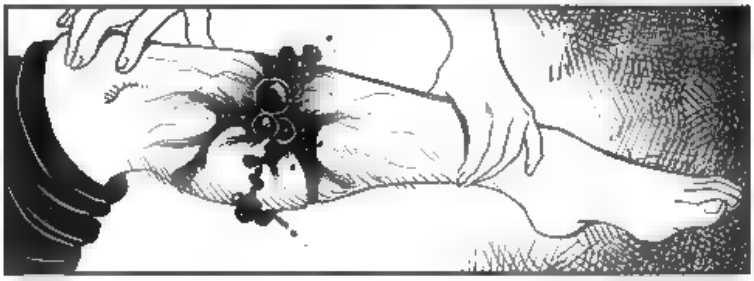
HEY.
YECH. YOU WEREN'T KIDDING.
THAT GUY REALLY IS NUTS.
THAT GUY'S WHY WE WON. YOU'D BETTER THANK HIM.

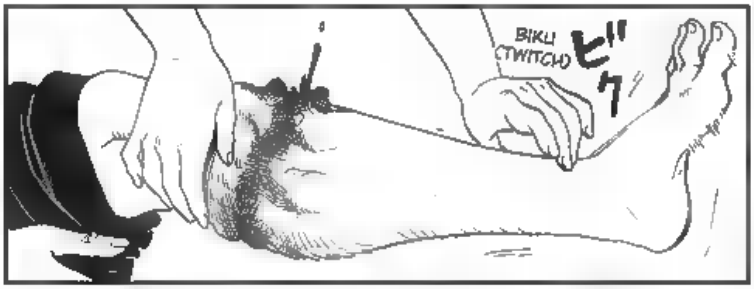
DOSU (FLUMP)

POI (TOSS)
FOUND IT.

HERE. STICK OUT YOUR LEG.

LAIOS.




BIKU (TWITCH)
ビク

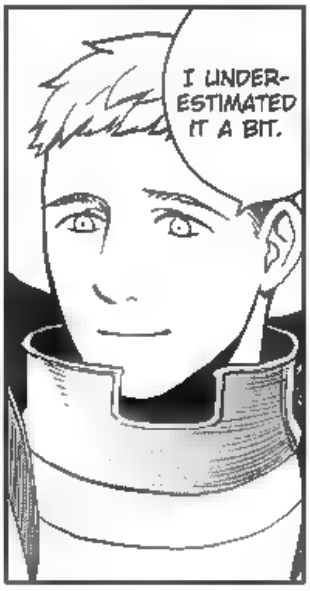
RECOVERY PANGS.
IT ITCHES ON THE INSIDE.

IT STUCK BACK ON!

THANKS TO YOU ALL, YES.
YOU REALLY BEAT THE RED DRAGON!
IF ANY ONE OF US HAD BEEN MISSING, WE WOULDN'T HAVE WON.

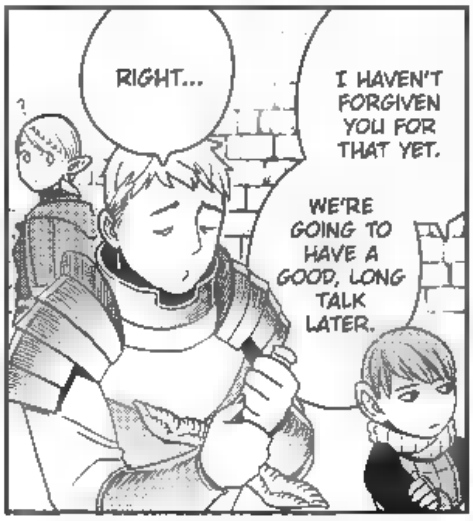
WELL DONE, LAIOS.

WELL, AS LONG AS WE WON, RIGHT?


I UNDER-ESTIMATED IT A BIT.

IT WAS BLOOD-CURDLING.

FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I THOUGHT WE WON'T MAKE IT.


RIGHT...
I HAVEN'T FORGIVEN YOU FOR THAT YET.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD, LONG TALK LATER.

KEN-SUKE.

ONLY... HERE, LAIOS.

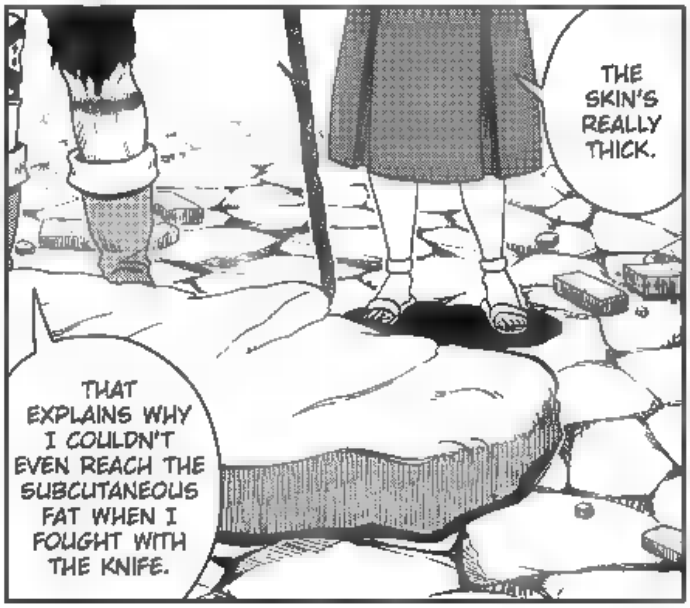
OKAY...

THE STOMACH'S AROUND HERE, RIGHT?

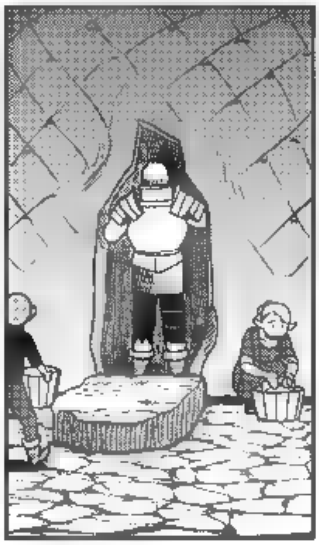
LET'S CHECK WHAT'S IN ITS STOMACH.
BORI (SCRITCH)
BORI

SAKU (SLIT)

I'M BORROWING YOUR KNIFE.


THE SKIN'S REALLY THICK.
THAT EXPLAINS WHY I COULDN'T EVEN REACH THE SUBCUTANEOUS FAT WHEN I FOUGHT WITH THE KNIFE.

ドン
DON (THUD)

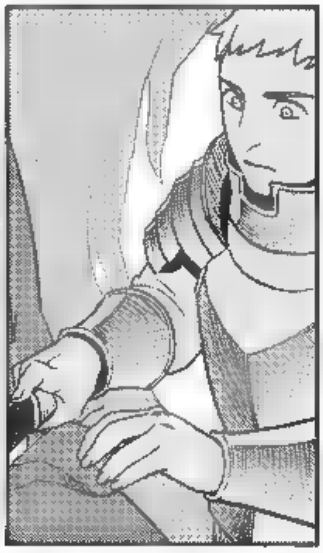


DRAGONS' INSIDES SHOULD BE THE SAME AS OTHER CREATURES'.
LET'S JUST CARVE OUR WAY IN, BIT BY BIT.

REACHING THE STOMACH IS GOING TO BE A JOB AND A HALF.
WANT ME TO BLOW IT UP?

IT'S A RIB.
LET'S DETOUR A BIT AND KEEP DIGGING.

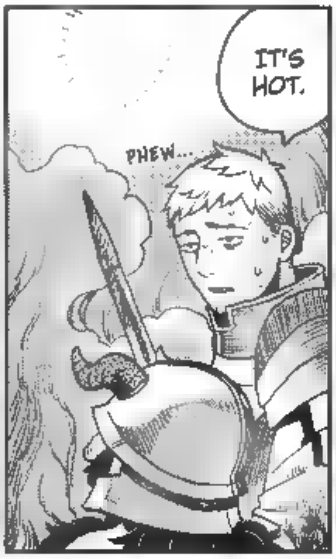
ガキ
GAKI (CLACK)

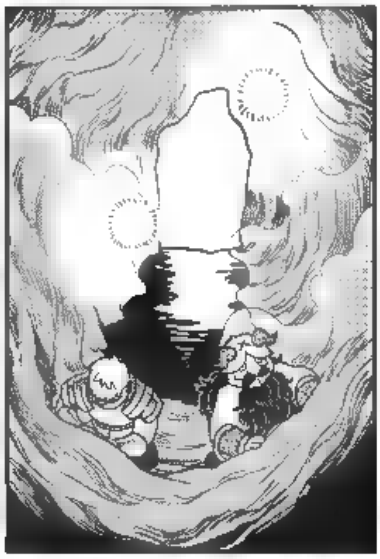


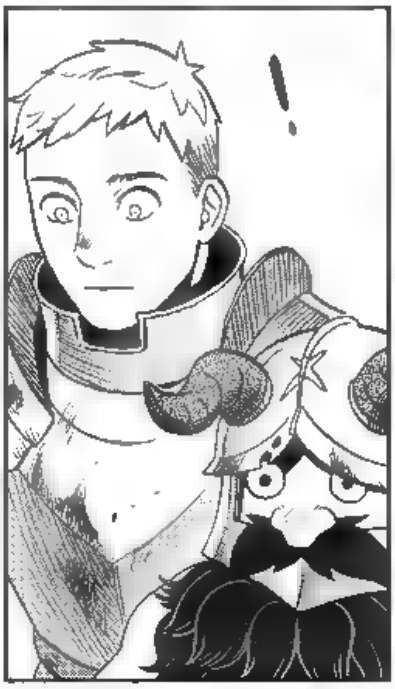
PO
GLOW
PO

IT'S DARK. WANT TO LIGHT A LANTERN ?
WE CAN'T USE FIRE.
MARCILLE. LIGHT, PLEASE.

THIS REMINDS ME OF MY TIME ■ THE COAL MINES.


IT'S HOT.
PHEW...

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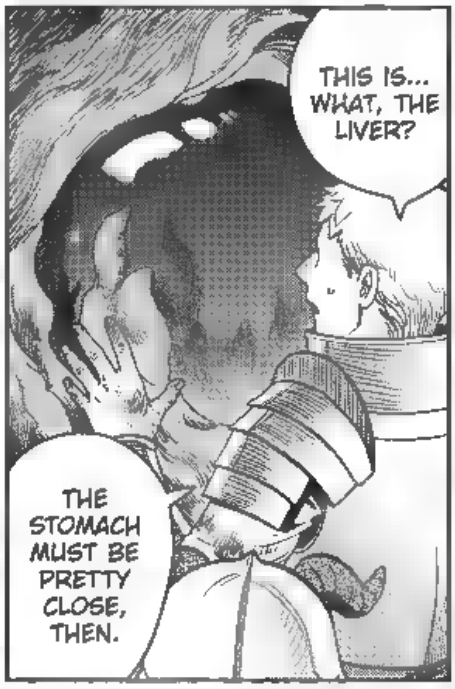
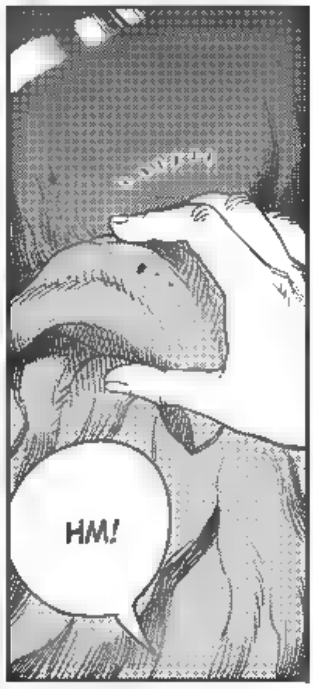
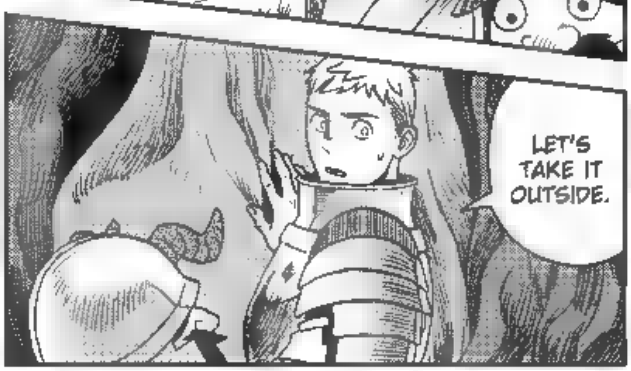
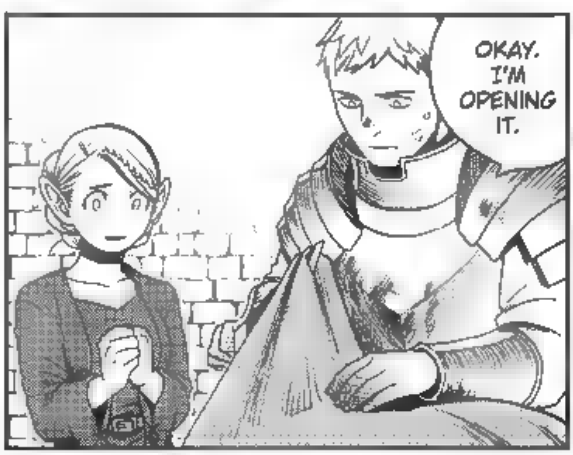
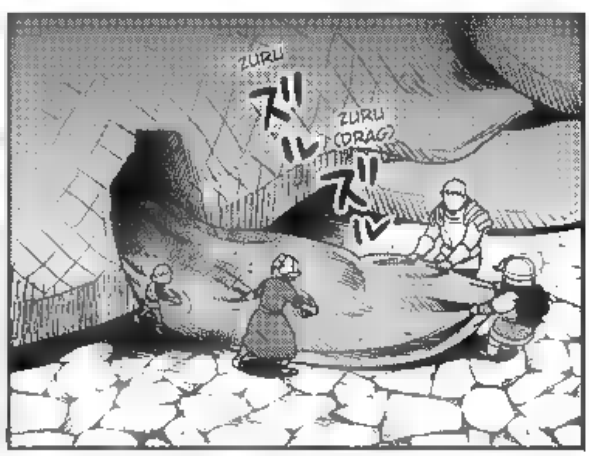

THIS IS... WHAT, THE LIVER?
THE STOMACH MUST BE PRETTY CLOSE, THEN.


HM!

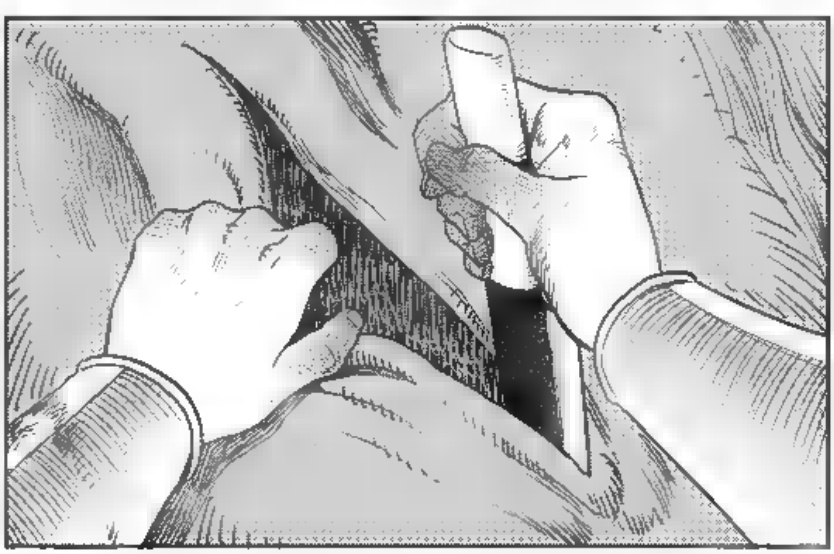
IT'S THE STOMACH!


LET'S TAKE IT OUTSIDE.

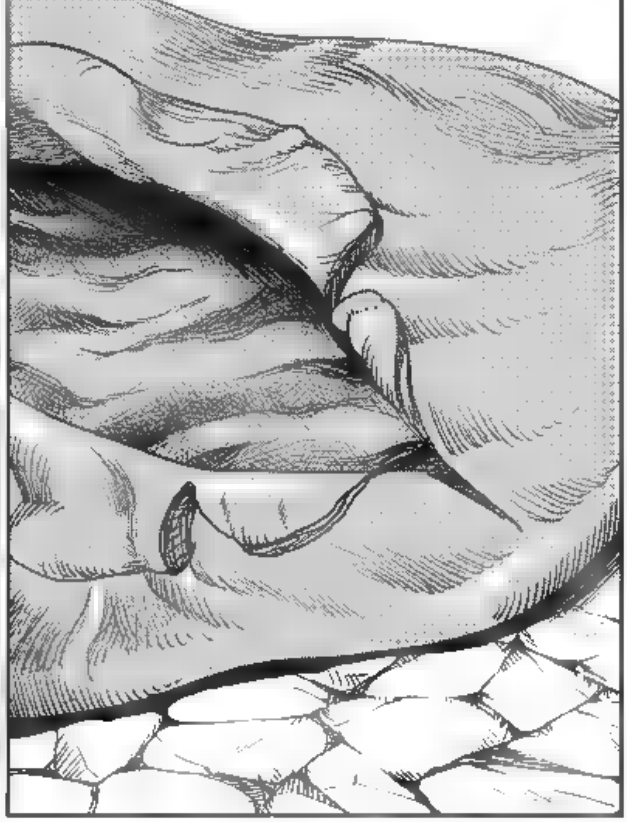

OKAY. I'M OPENING IT.


ZURU
ズル
ZURU (DRAG)
ズル

AH!



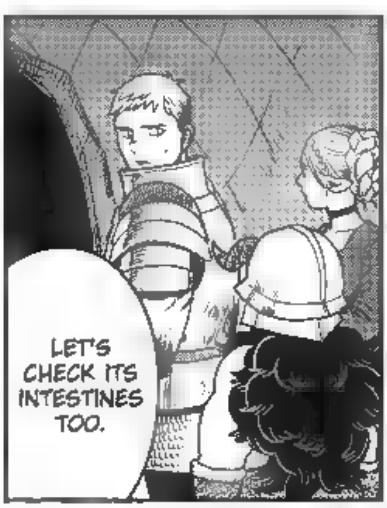
EMPTY...

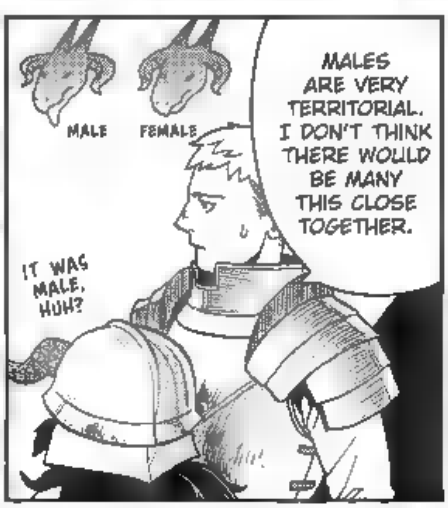


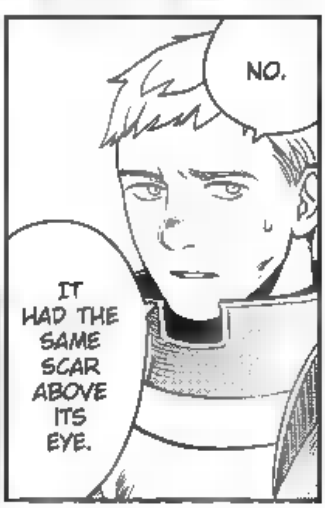
MAYBE IT WAS A DIFFERENT DRAGON?

TON (TMP)
NO...

YORO (STAGGER)


LET'S CHECK ITS INTESTINES TOO.

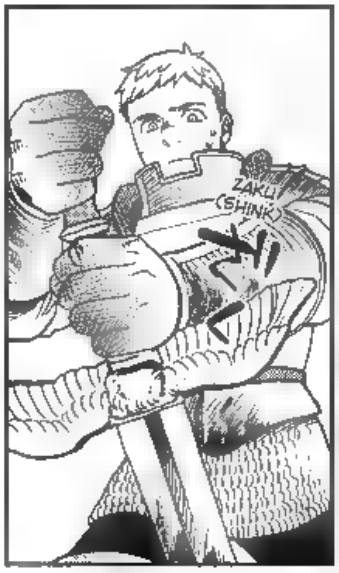

MALE
FEMALE
MALES ARE VERY TERRITORIAL. I DON'T THINK THERE WOULD BE MANY THIS CLOSE TOGETHER.
IT WAS MALE, HUH?

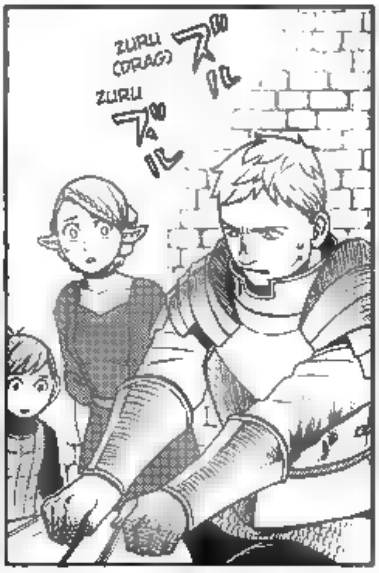

NO.
IT HAD THE SAME SCAR ABOVE ITS EYE.

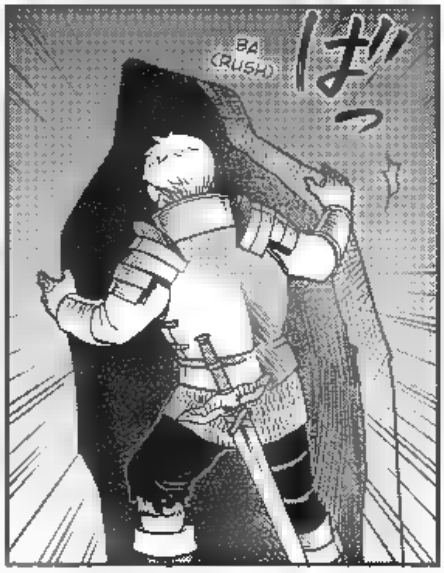
AH!
OH, RIGHT...

MAYBE STAYING AWAKE AND ACTIVE SPED UP ITS DIGES-TION.

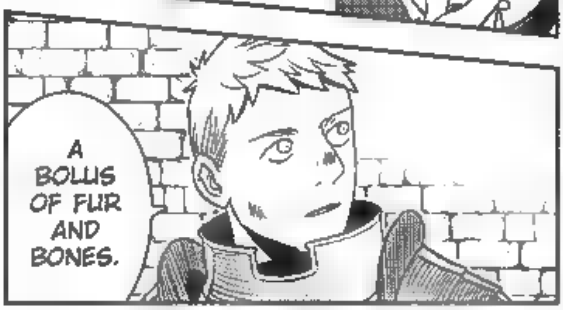
NOT ONE BONE FRAGMENT LEFT...HOW IS THAT EVEN...
WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY AND LOOK FOR ITS POOP...

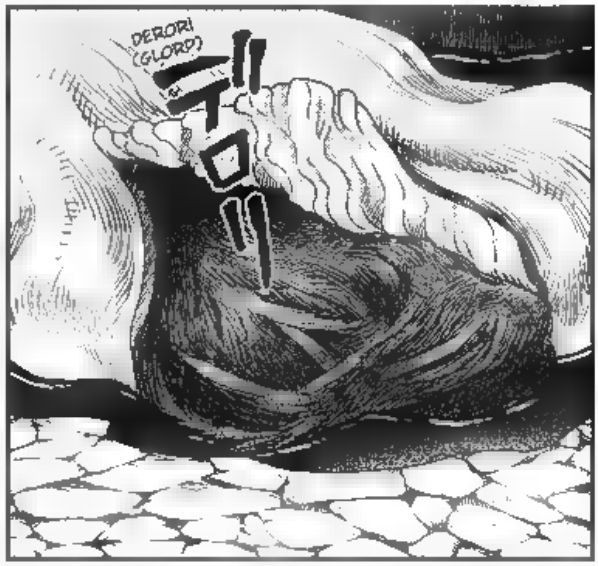

ZAKU (SHINK)


ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU


BA (RUSH)
ばっ

UGH!
WHAT'S THIS?


A BOLUS OF FUR AND BONES.

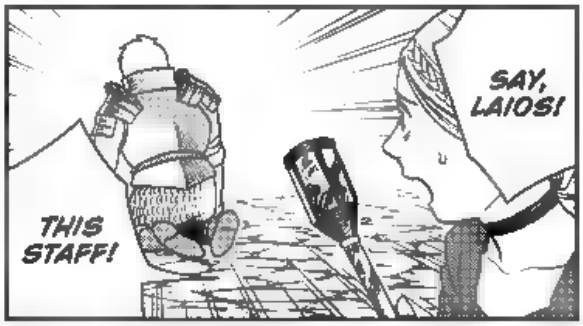

DERORI (GLORP)
ゴロ!!

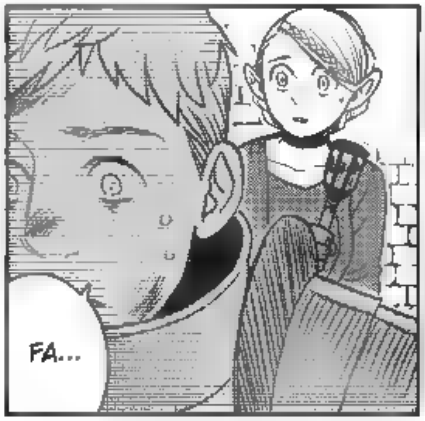
RED DRAGONS DON'T SPIT THEM OUT. THEY USE THEM AS FIRE-BREATH FUEL.
THIS BLACK FUR MEANS IT ATE A FEW WARGS. AND...

SOME ANIMALS THAT SWALLOW THEIR PREY WHOLE...
...SPIT OUT ALL THE INDIGESTIBLE BITS AT ONCE.

LET'S UNTANGLE IT.
THERE MIGHT BE HUMAN BONES MIXED IN.

A-A HAIR...
THAT'S ...!





CHAPTER 26: THE END

# 27. Red Dragon V

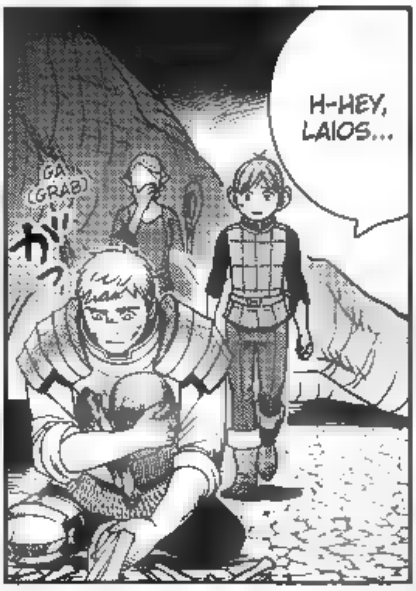
IT CAN'T BE...
FALIN...

.....

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S NEVER BEEN DONE, BUT...

CAN...
CAN A PERSON COME BACK FROM THAT?

WE DON'T KNOW YET.
I'LL TAKE THESE TO THE RES-URRECTION OFFICE.


H-HEY, LAIOS...
GA (GRAB)
カ!!

BA! (VSH)

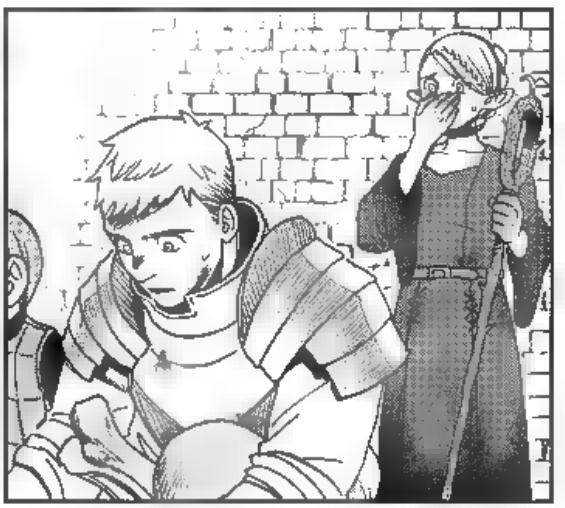
I'LL HELP.

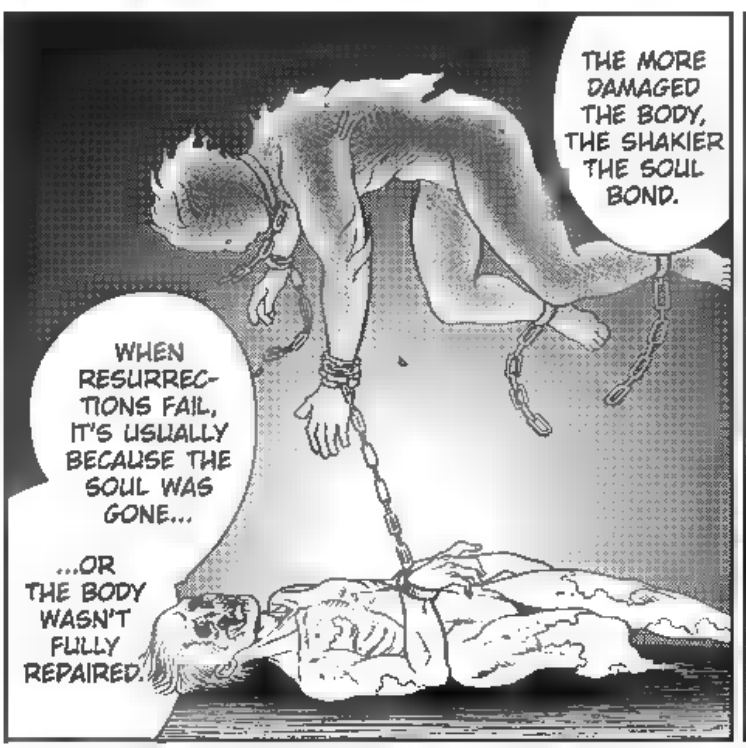
...

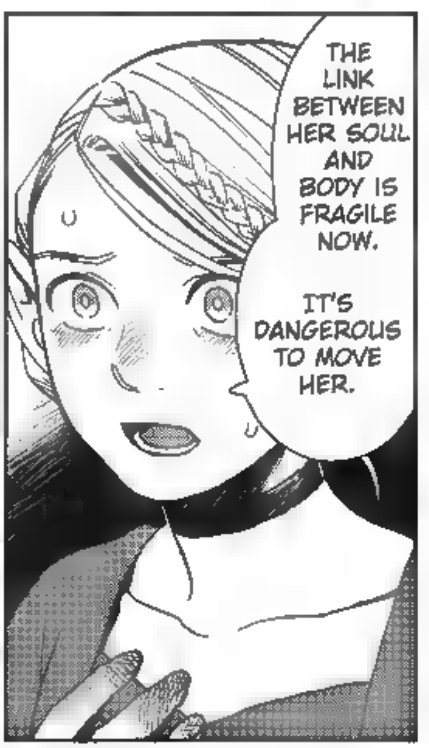
I CAN'T TELL THEM APART, SO...
YOU'RE TAKING ALL OF THEM?
AREN'T THERE WARG BONES IN THERE TOO?

WAIT!

AH!



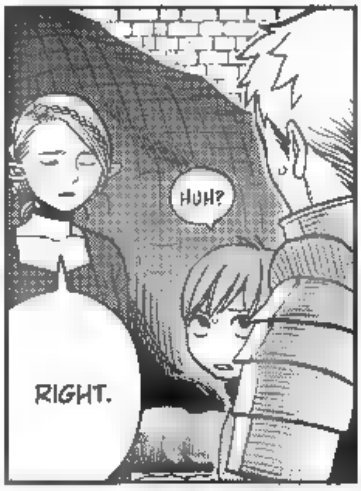

THE MORE DAMAGED THE BODY, THE SHAKIER THE SOUL BOND.
WHEN RESURRECTIONS FAIL, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE THE SOUL WAS GONE...
...OR THE BODY WASN'T FULLY REPAIRED.


THE LINK BETWEEN HER SOUL AND BODY IS FRAGILE NOW.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO MOVE HER.

BUT RESTORATION REQUIRES MORE THAN TWICE THE CALORIES OF THE DAMAGED PARTS...
...SO THEY'LL NEED TO BRING A LOT OF FRESH MEAT AND BLOOD WITH THEM.

ZU (SNIFFLE)
...GO GET A REVIVIFIER AND RESURRECT [redacted] HERE.

THEN WHAT SHOULD WE DO?


HUH?
RIGHT.

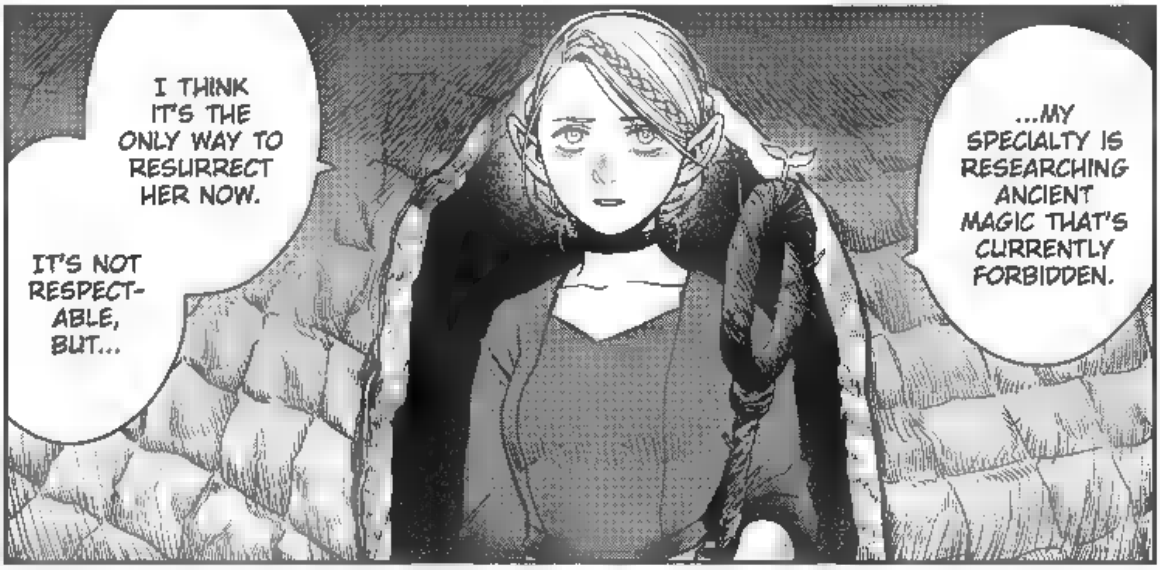
...NO.

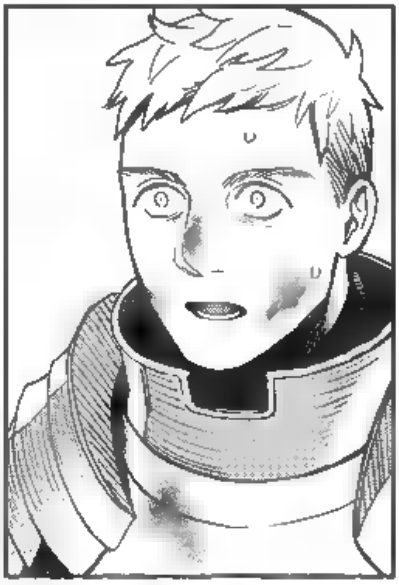
BUT IT'LL ROT ON THE WAY...

WE HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF FRESH MEAT AND BLOOD RIGHT HERE.

I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU BECAUSE IT WOULD SCARE YOU, BUT...

YOU'RE GOING TO RESURRECT HER!? WITH DRAGON MEAT!?
WAIT... HOLD IT!
REVIVI-FICATION ISN'T YOUR FIELD.


I THINK IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO RESURRECT HER NOW.
IT'S NOT RESPECT-ABLE, BUT...
...MY SPECIALTY IS RESEARCHING ANCIENT MAGIC THAT'S CURRENTLY FORBIDDEN.

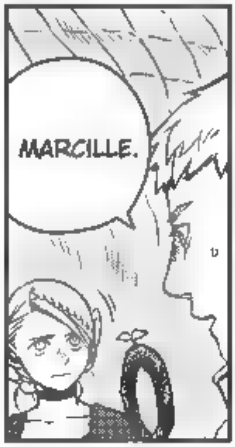


THERE'S NO GOOD OR EVIL IN MAGIC.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, LAIOS?

WHA...?
BLACK MAGIC, HUH!?
DON'T. THAT STUFF'S NO GOOD.

LEAVE IT TO ME.
I'LL GET IT DONE...

DO IT, MARCILLE.
BRING FALIN BACK. PLEASE...!


MARCILLE.

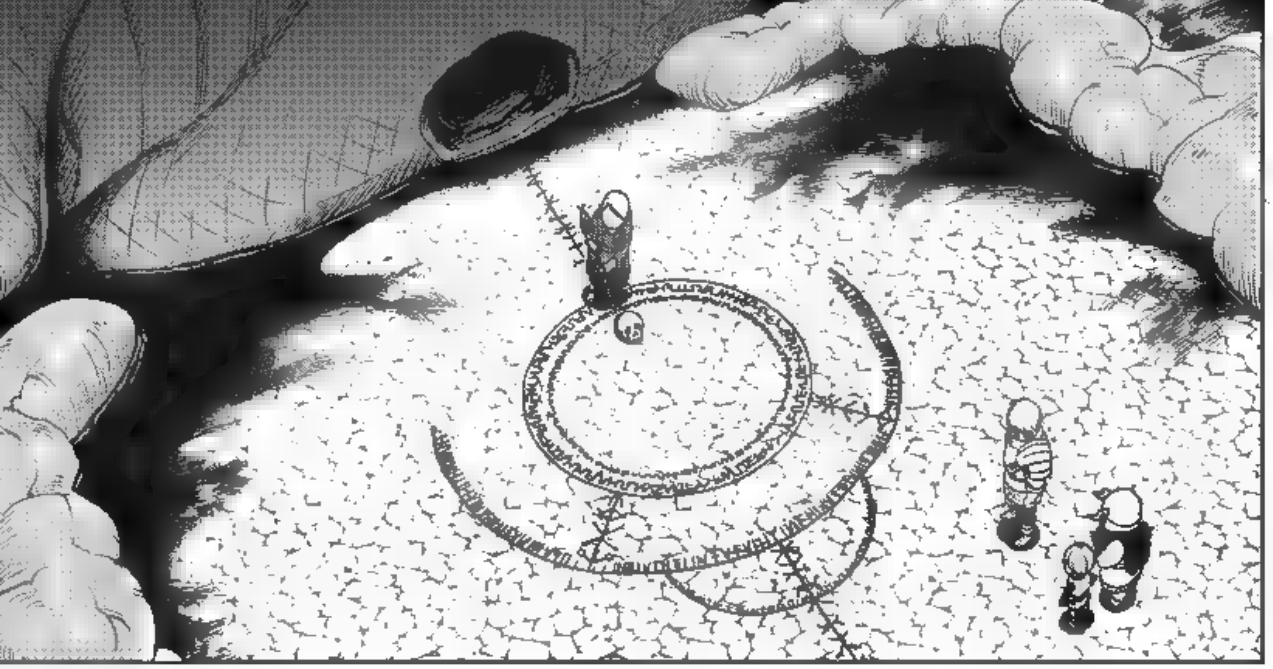
...

THEY NORMALLY USE GOATS OR PIGS.
THAT PART'S NOT A BIG DEAL.

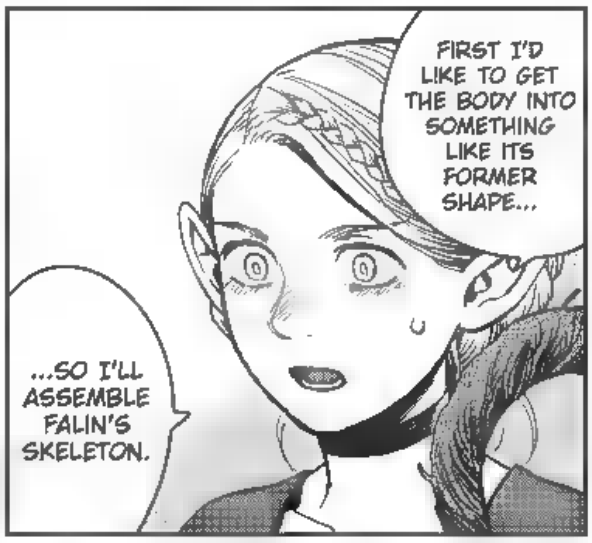
ARE YOU TWO INSANE ?
USING DRAGON FLESH IS JUST...

KARI (SCRITCH)

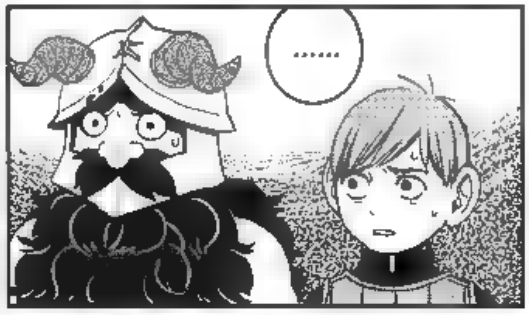
SHU (SLIT)

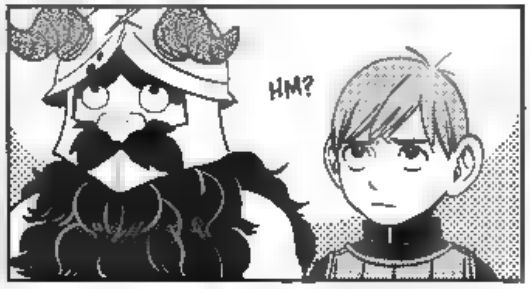


I SEE.
I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT CANINE SKELETONS.
I'LL PUT THE WARGS TOGETH-ER.


FIRST I'D LIKE TO GET THE BODY INTO SOMETHING LIKE ITS FORMER SHAPE...
...SO I'LL ASSEMBLE FALIN'S SKELETON.

THAT'S NOT REALLY NECESSARY, IS IT!?
IT MIGHT HELP US NOT TO [redacted] THINGS OR GET CONFUSED!!

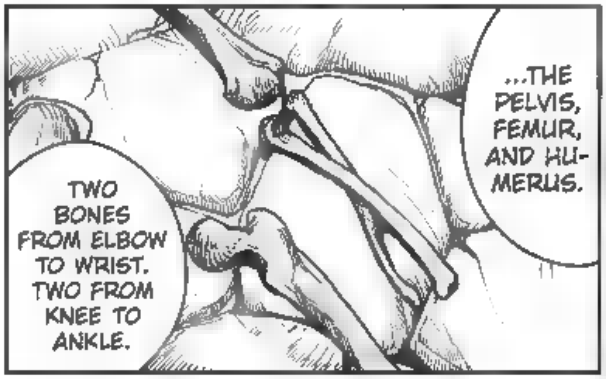

.....


HM?

HUH?
THEN WE'VE GOT 840 BONES HERE.

HUMANS HAVE ABOUT TWO HUNDRED BONES.

THAT MANY?
AND FROM THE SKULLS, THERE ARE TWO OF THEM.
BECAUSE DOGS HAVE ABOUT 320 BONES.


TWO BONES FROM ELBOW TO WRIST. TWO FROM KNEE TO ANKLE.
...THE PELVIS, FEMUR, AND HUMERUS.

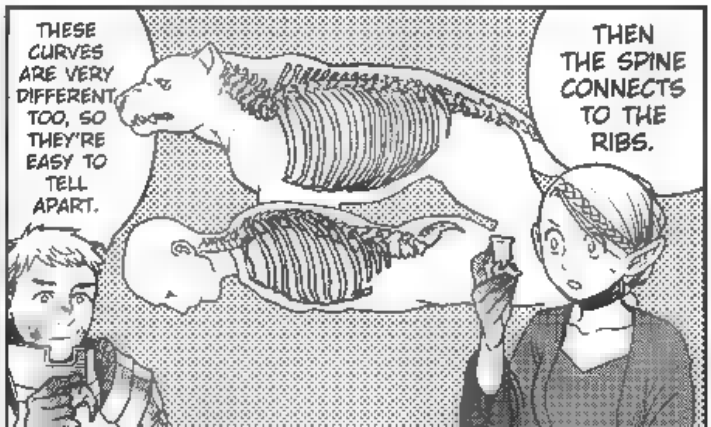
FIRST ...
IF WE START WITH THE OBVIOUS ONES, WE'LL BE FINE.

THEY DO LOOK VERY DIFFERENT.

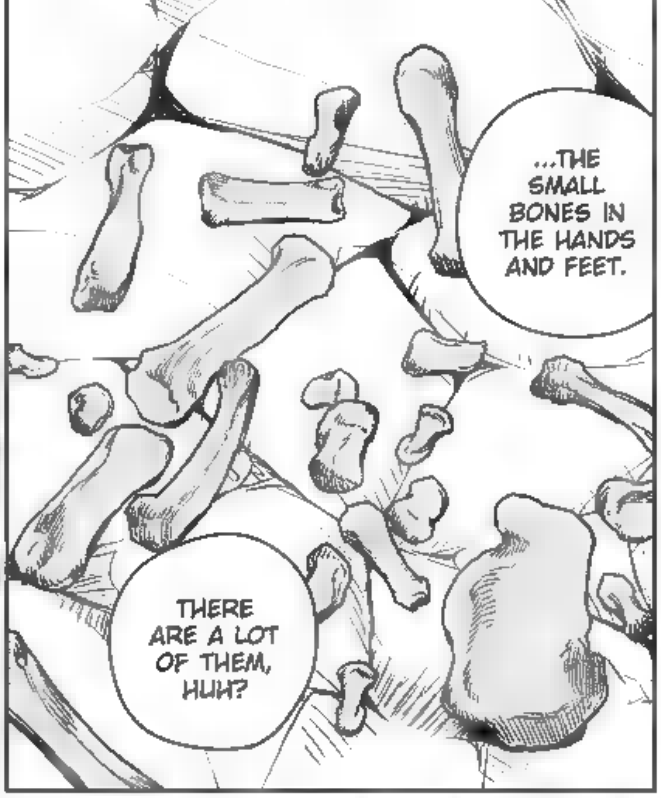
THE ROUNDER ONES ARE HUMAN RIBS.

IF THEY'RE LIKE DOGS, WARGS HAVE THIRTEEN PAIRS.
PLUS THE CLAVICLES.
TWELVE PAIRS OF RIBS.
AND NO CLAVICLES.

THE PROBLEM IS...


THESE CURVES ARE VERY DIFFERENT TOO, SO THEY'RE EASY TO TELL APART.
THEN THE SPINE CONNECTS TO THE RIBS.

I CAN'T TELL THESE APART AT ALL.
JUST START WITH THE ONES THAT STAND OUT.


...THE SMALL BONES IN THE HANDS AND FEET.
THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM, HUH?

ONCE WE ELIMINATE THE WARG BONES...
...LET'S FIND THE BONES FOR HUMAN FEET.

WARG
DOG
DOGS ARE BUILT TO STAND ON THEIR TOES.
MAYBE IT'S A WARG METATARSAL, THEN.

THIS LONG BONE...
...ISN'T A HUMAN ONE.

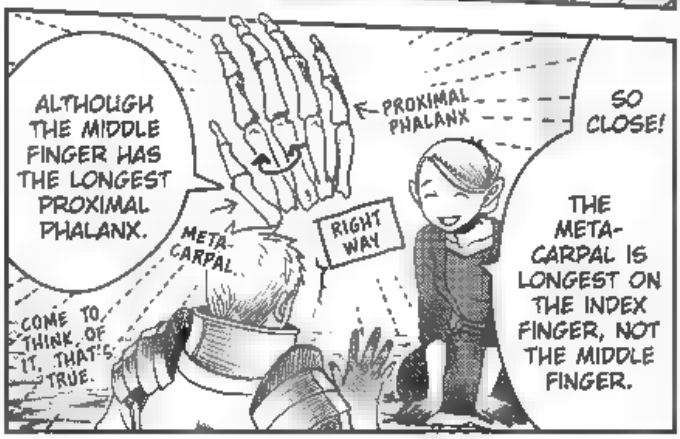
カチ! KACHI! (CLICK)
WOW. THEY MATE PERFECTLY.
WELL-MADE, AREN'T THEY?

LINE UP THE BONES SO THEY FIT...
...AND THE INSTEP IS DONE.

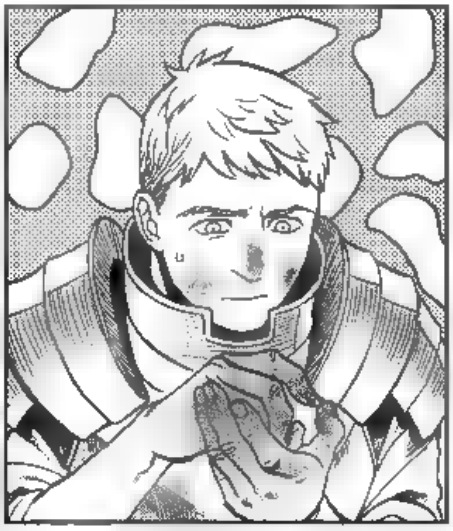
THIS IS AN ANKLE BONE. IT'S THE BIGGEST ONE.

I GET IT! THEY GO LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

NOW FOR THE HAND BONES...
WE SHOULD START WITH THE FINGERS HERE.

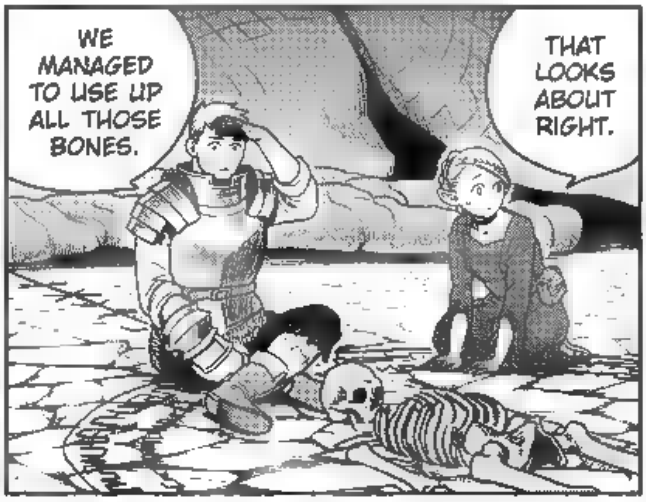

ALTHOUGH THE MIDDLE FINGER HAS THE LONGEST PROXIMAL PHALANX.
PROXIMAL PHALANX
SO CLOSE!
THE META-CARPAL IS LONGEST ON THE INDEX FINGER, NOT THE MIDDLE FINGER.
RIGHT WAY
META-CARPAL
COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT'S TRUE.

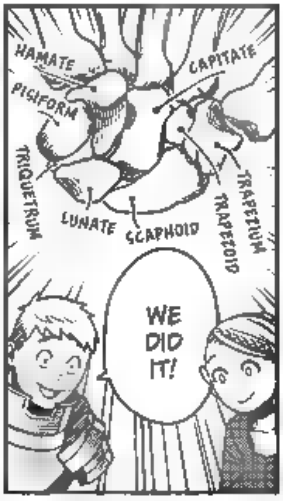
HINT, PLEASE.
QUIT MAKING A GAME OUT OF THIS.



JUST THE CARPAL BONES NOW. THEY LINK THE FINGERS AND WRIST.
AROUND HERE.

OKAY...


WE MANAGED TO USE UP ALL THOSE BONES.
THAT LOOKS ABOUT RIGHT.

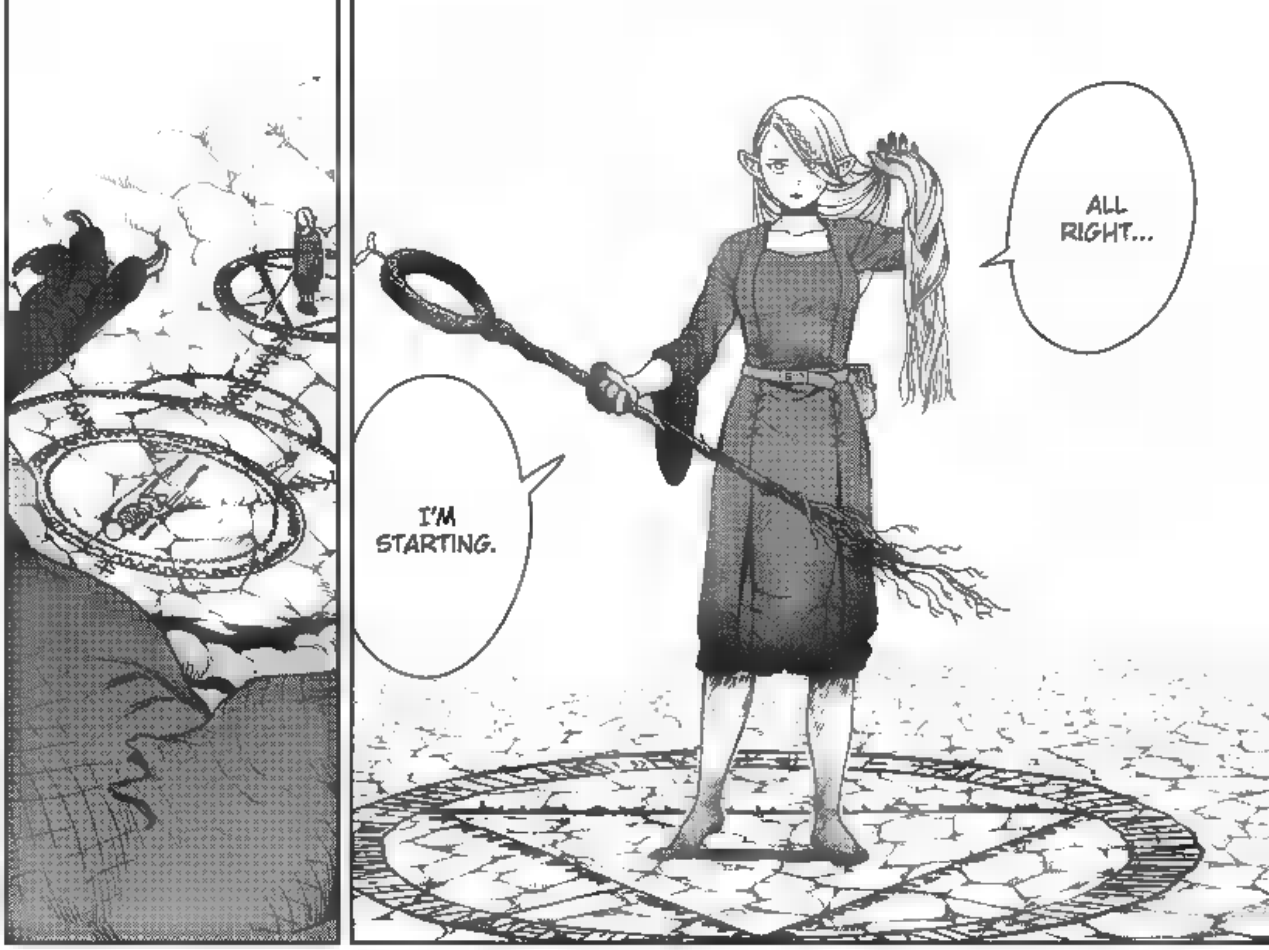

HAMATE
CAPITATE
PISIFORM
TRIQUETRUM
LUNATE
SCAPHOID
TRAPEZOID
TRAPEZIUM
WE DID IT!

## Falin and Warg Skeletons

Ingredients
Falin's bones——1 skeleton
Warg bones——2 skeletons

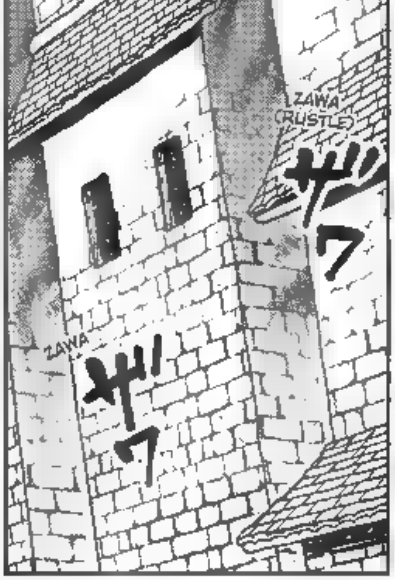
FINISHED !!

ENERGY
VITAMINS
CARBS
CALCIUM
PROTEIN
IRON
FAT


ALL RIGHT...
I'M STARTING.

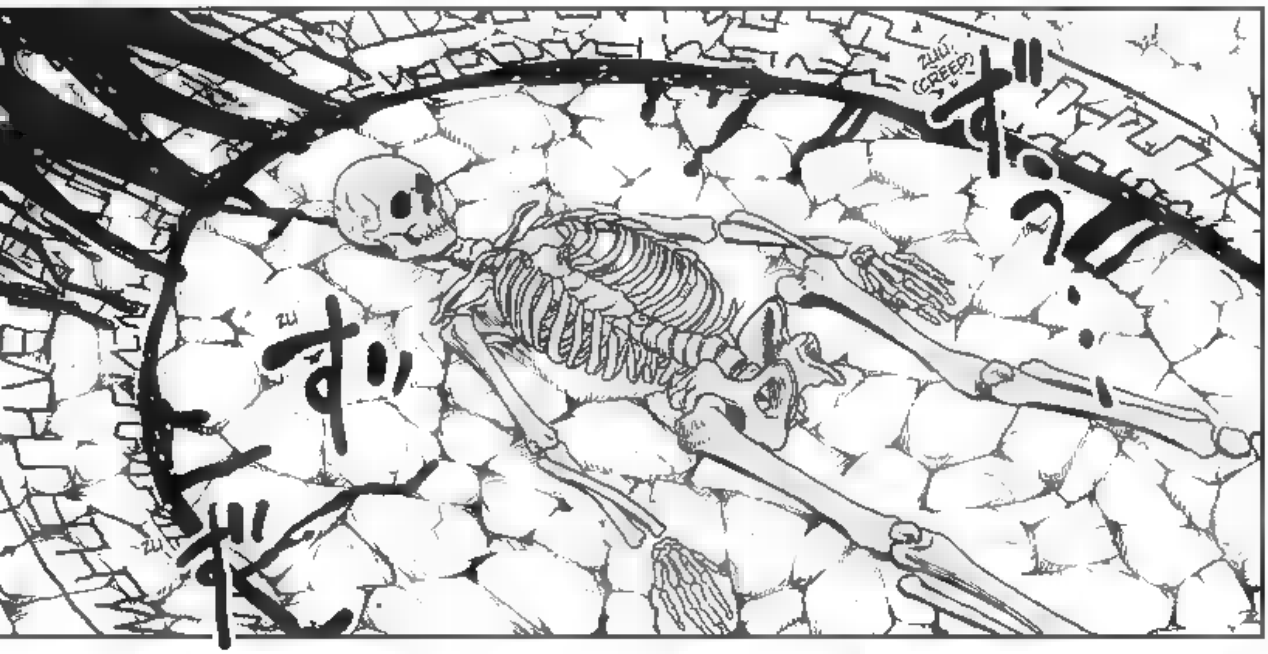
FWOO...

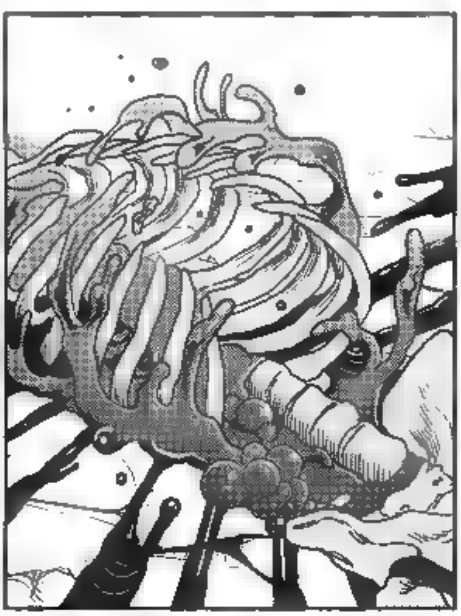
TON+UP
TON (THUMP)

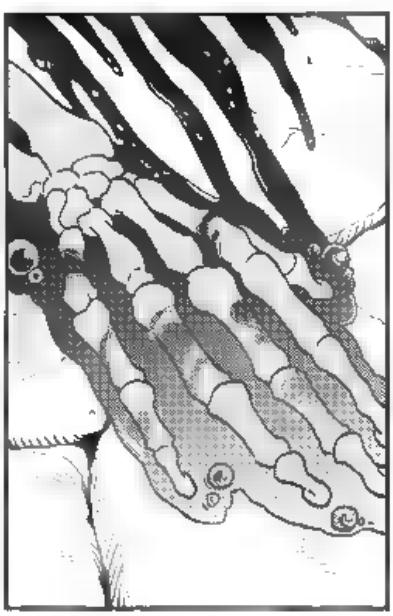

ZAWA (RUSTLE)
ザワ
ZAWA
ザワ

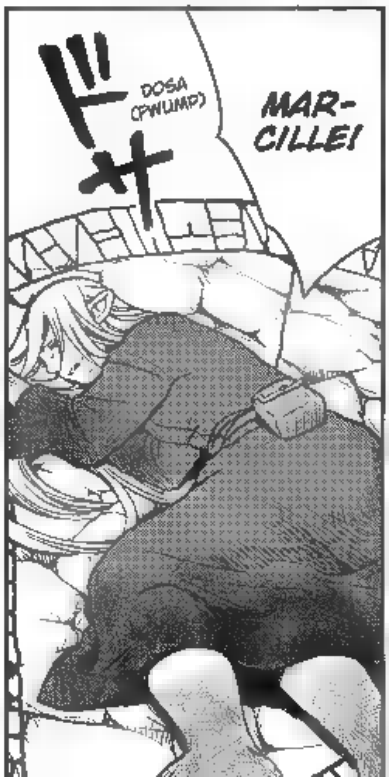
HISO (WHISPER)
ヒソ
HISO
ヒソ

GORO (BURBLE)
ゴポ
ゴポ
GORO


ZUU (CREEP)
ずゥ
ずゥ
ZU
ZU

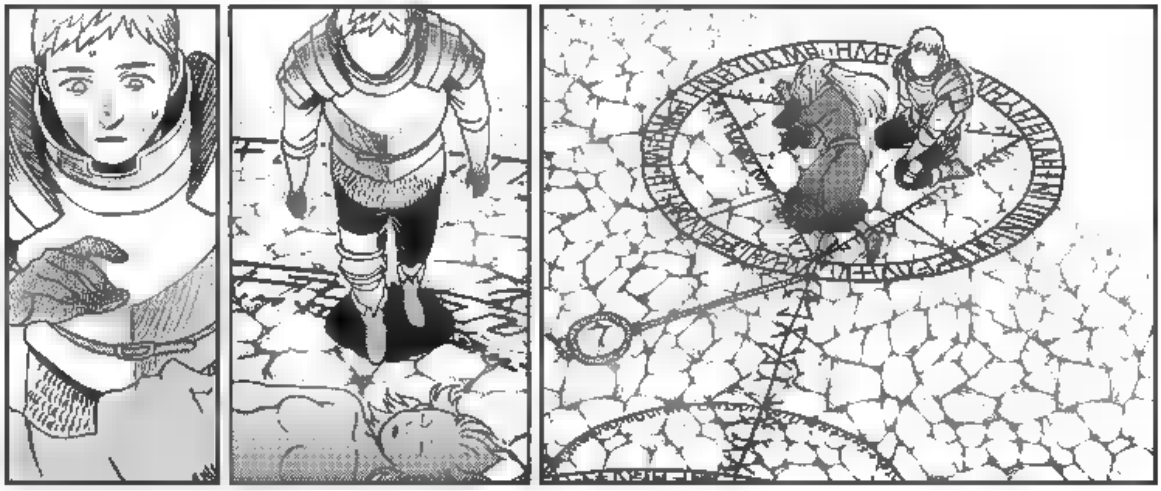





ドサ
DOSA (PWUMP)
MAR-CILLE!

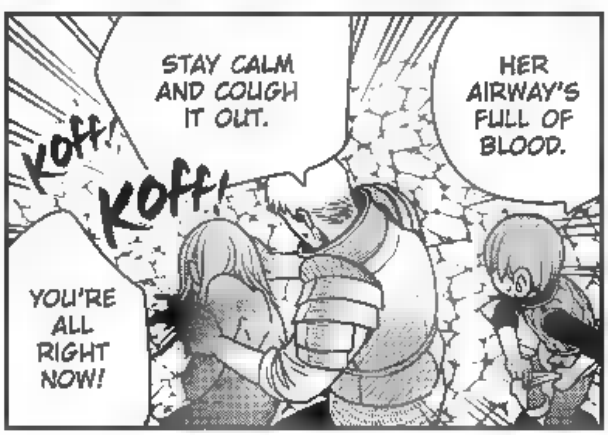
WHAT HAPPENED?
DID IT WORK?
SHE FAINTED.

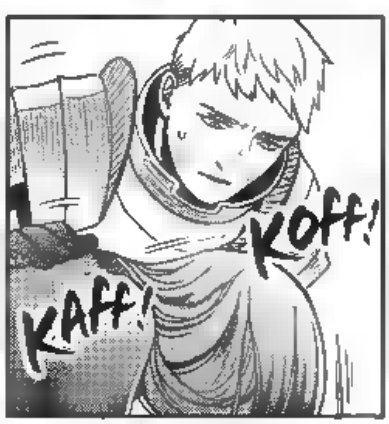
I DON'T KNOW...

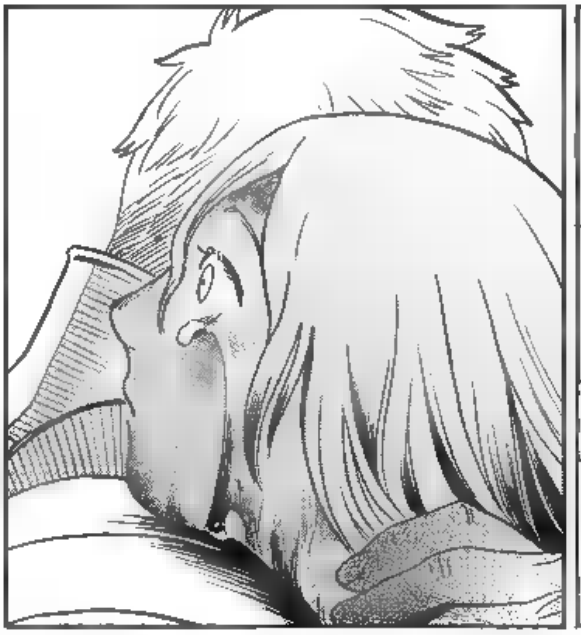


HWOO...
パチ
PACHI-(BLINK)

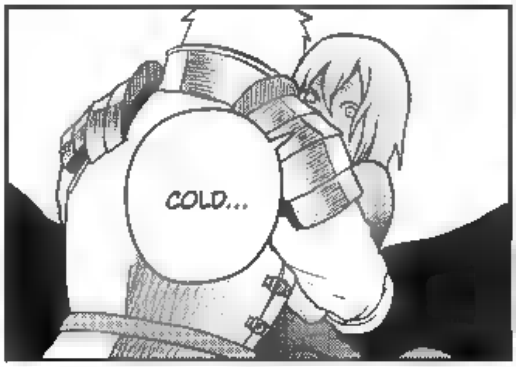
KOFF!
KOFF!
HAGK!







B...
BROTH...


COLD...

I'M SO GLAD...

ほ! BOO (DAZE)

CLOTHES! CLOTHES!

THE ARMOR! RIGHT!
AH! O-OF COURSE! I'M SORRY!

.....
THAT'S GOOD, THEN.

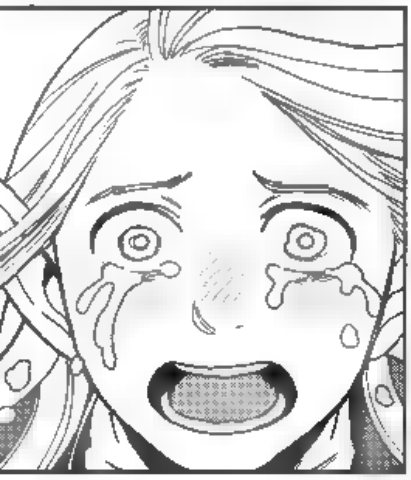
NOTHING HURTS?
GURU (WRAP)
ARE YOU OKAY?
GURU

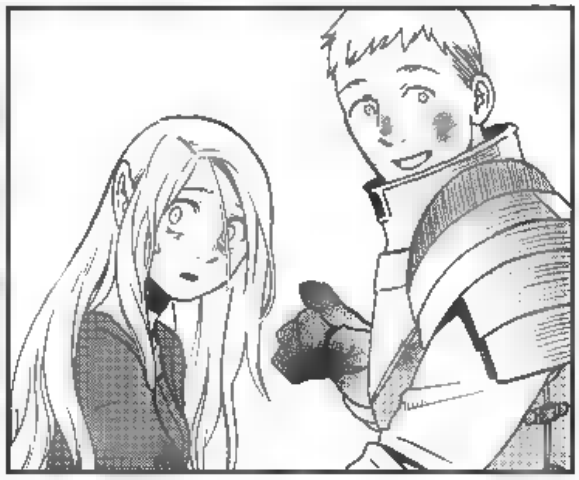
FALIN.

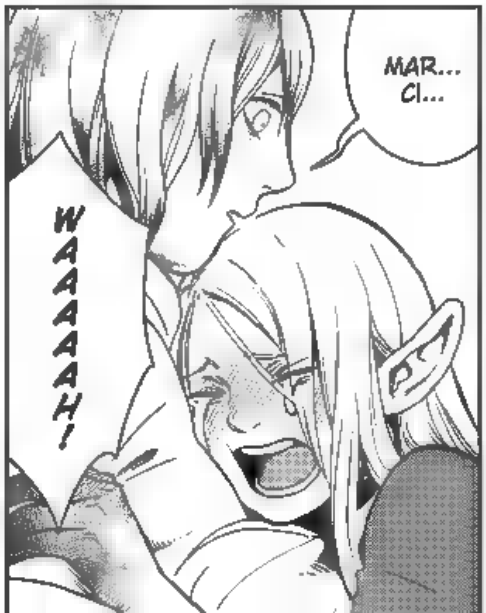
HOW'S FALIN ...!?
SHE'S BACK. SHE STILL SEEMS A LITTLE CONFUSED, BUT...

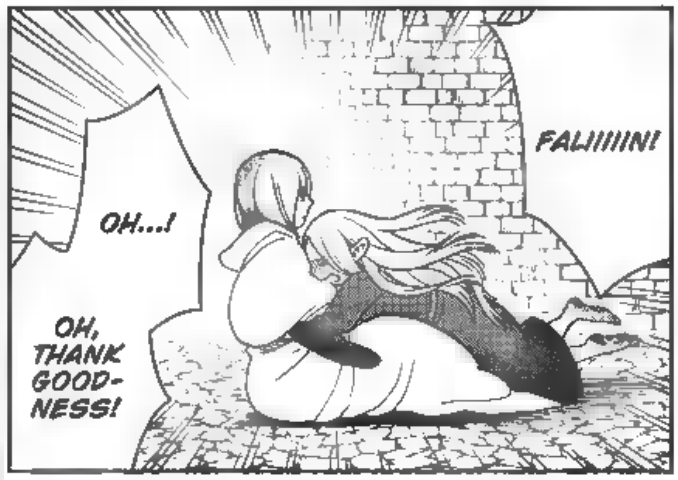
MAR-CILLE. MAR-CILLE!
UUNH...

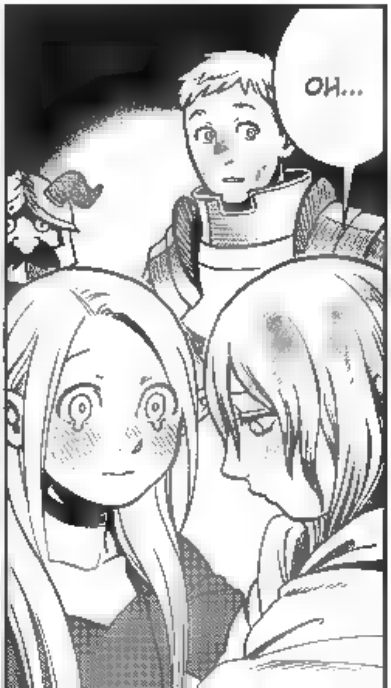
WAGH!






MAR... CI...
WAAAAAAH!

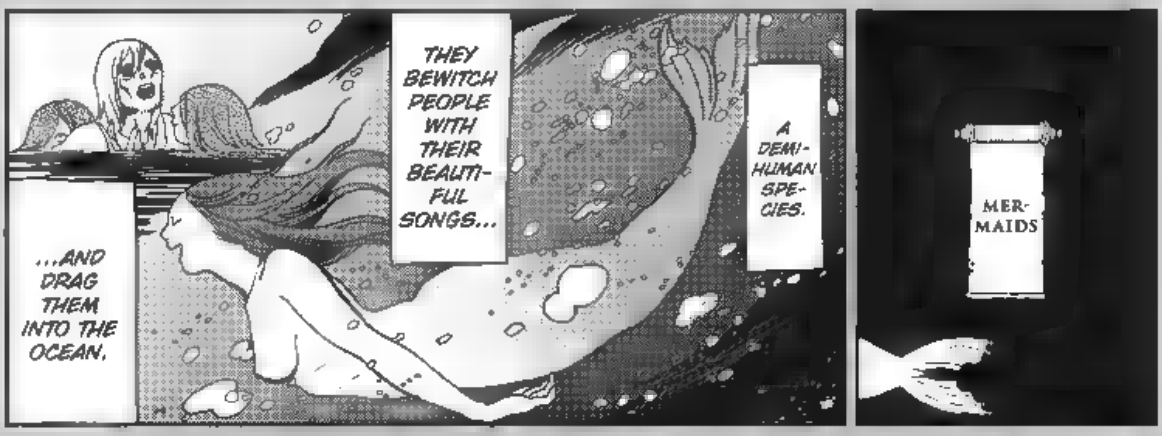

FALIIIIIN!
OH...!
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS!



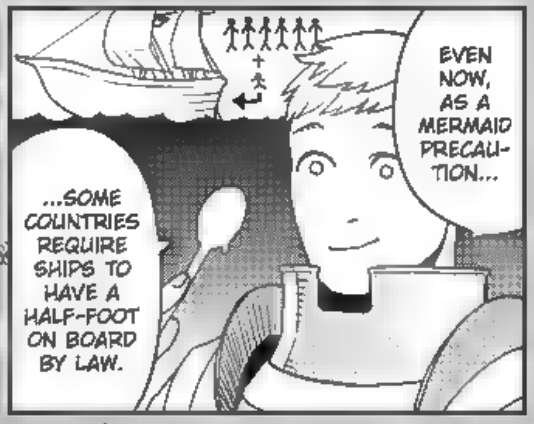

CHAPTER 27: THE END

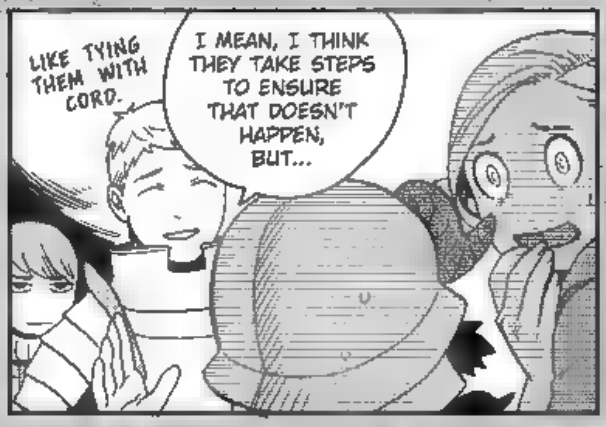
STEP RIGHT UP, ADVENTURERS!
PLAGUED BY IRRITATING TENTACLES?
IF WE PLAY THIS RIGHT, WE COULD BE RICH.
SO GIANT FROG SKIN NEUTRALIZES TENTACLES. THAT'S A MAJOR DISCOVERY.
GIANT FROGS
MISC. MONSTER TALES
4
IF YOU'RE GOING INTO THE DEPTHS, YOU NEED THIS.
COME ON, GET OUT YOUR PURSES.
WITH THIS SKIN, YOU'LL FEAR NO TENTACLE.
IT WORKS ON STRING, VINE, FLOWER, HAND-SHAPED, AND ALL OTHER TENTACLE TYPES!
WHAT YOU NEED IS GIANT FROG SKIN.
THESE FROGS LIVE DEEP IN THE DUNGEON WHERE THE TENTACLES ARE THICK.
...WITH ACQUISITION AND LABOR COSTS, THAT'S...
AT 1,000 GOLD EACH...
MEANING...?
THEY SAY IT MAY BE GIANT FROGS' SLIME...
NETO (STICKY)
...THAT KEEPS THEM SAFE AROUND TENTACLES.
NICE! I LIKE IT.
AH HA!
HMM...
IS THERE A HEALER...
...IN THE AUDIENCE?
ONCE THEY DRY OUT, THEY DON'T WORK.
SAFER NOT TO TRY, THEN.
WATCH AND BE AMAZED.
WITH THIS SKIN ON, EVEN THIS IS NOTH—
MICCHIRI (STUFFED)
みっちり

THEY'RE WAITING WITH THEIR MOUTHS OPEN FOR FOOD TO FALL DOWN, AREN'T THEY?
DON'T THEY GET BORED?
SAWA (RUSTLE)
サワ
SAWA
サワ
TENTACLES
TREASURE CHESTS, HANDLES, RAILINGS, NEXT TO SWITCHES ...
BY THE WALLS OF OPEN-LOOKING ROOMS...
THEY GROW IN PLACES WHERE THEY'LL TEMPT PEOPLE.
NO, THEY'RE DEFINITELY INTELLIGENT.
I DON'T KNOW.
I HEAR THEIR STAPLE FOOD IS AIRBORNE SPIRITS.
THEY DON'T HAVE BRAINS.
ODDLY, MOST OF THEM WERE WOMEN.
WHEN A PUZZLED DOCTOR ASKED WHERE THEY'D BEEN STUNG...
A HOSPITAL KEPT GETTING PATIENTS WITH TENTACLE-STUNG HANDS.
I HEARD THIS ONE TOO.
THAT'S REAL CLEVER.
BWAH HAH!
AH HA!
YES, THAT WOULD BE TEMPTING.
THEY LIKED IT.
HEY, THAT WASN'T MY FAULT.
DAMN YOU, TENTA-CLES...
TEMPTED BY THE MOOD, CHILCHUCK ACCIDEN-TALLY CHOSE THE WRONG JOKE.
A SURE-FIRE HIT AT THE TAVERN
SHIIN (SILENCE)
...IT TURNED OUT THE TENTACLE WAS GROWING IN THE CROTCH OF A STATUE OF A STRAPPING WARRIOR.


...AND DRAG THEM INTO THE OCEAN.
THEY BEWITCH PEOPLE WITH THEIR BEAUTIFUL SONGS...
A DEMI-HUMAN SPECIES.
MERMAIDS

YOU DON'T SAY...
DUE TO THEIR SHARP HEARING, THEY NOTICE MERMAID SONGS BEFORE OTHER RACES DO.


...SOME COUNTRIES REQUIRE SHIPS TO HAVE A HALF-FOOT ON BOARD BY LAW.
EVEN NOW, AS A MERMAID PRECAUTION...

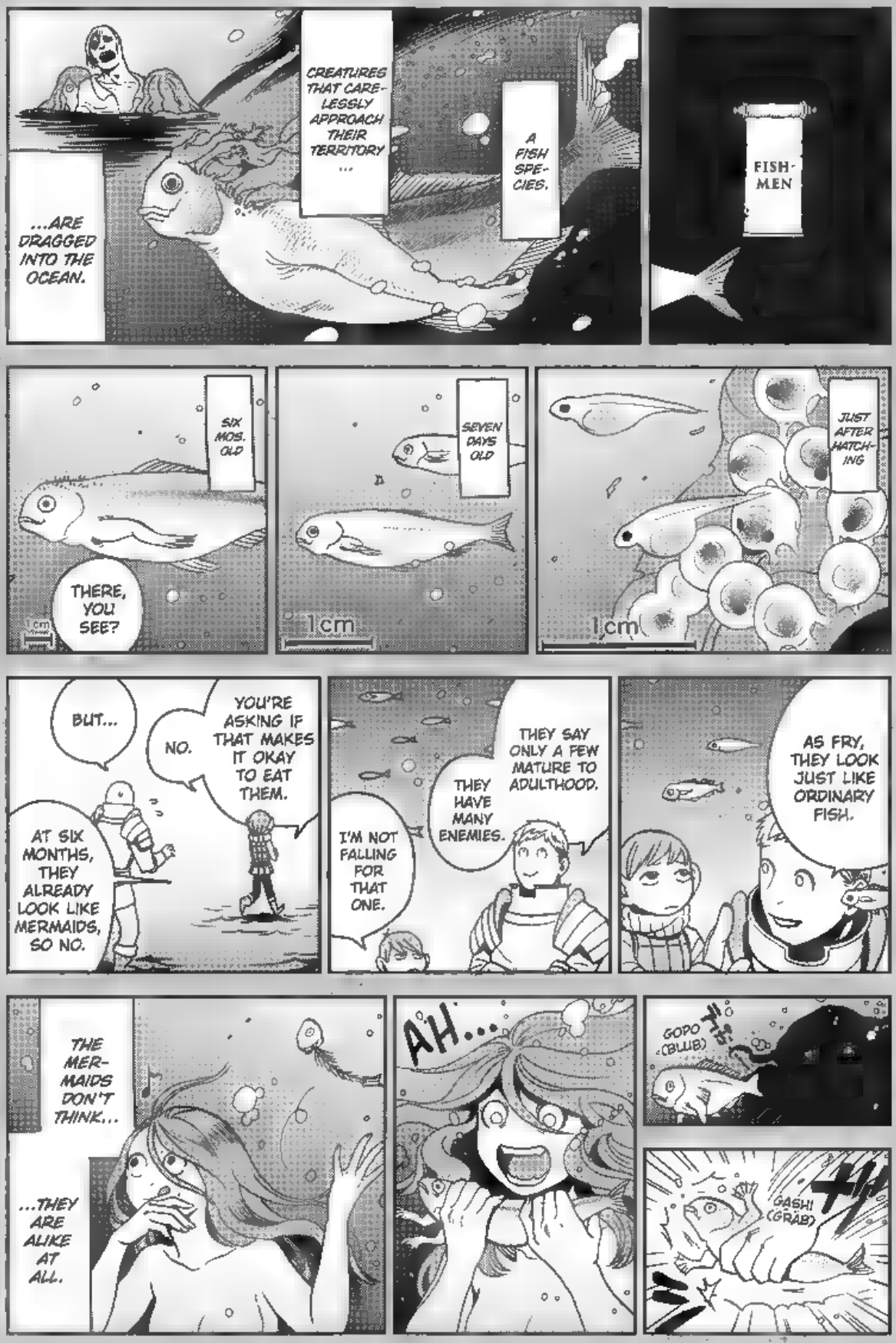

LIKE TYING THEM WITH CORD.
I MEAN, I THINK THEY TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN, BUT...

THEY DIE...
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HALF-FOOT?

IS THAT WHY YOU TOOK ME ALONG THAT TIME!?
YOU JERK!
DWARFS USE BIRDS.

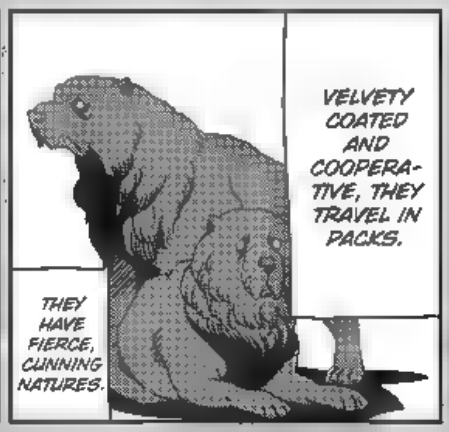
LET'S GO LOOK.
AW, MAN...
I DON'T WANNA...

...HM?


...ARE DRAGGED INTO THE OCEAN.
CREATURES THAT CARELESSLY APPROACH THEIR TERRITORY ...
A FISH SPECIES.
FISHMEN
SIX MOS. OLD
THERE, YOU SEE?
1cm
SEVEN DAYS OLD
1cm
JUST AFTER HATCHING
1cm
BUT...
NO.
YOU'RE ASKING IF THAT MAKES IT OKAY TO EAT THEM.
AT SIX MONTHS, THEY ALREADY LOOK LIKE MERMAIDS, SO NO.
I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT ONE.
THEY HAVE MANY ENEMIES.
THEY SAY ONLY A FEW MATURE TO ADULTHOOD.
AS FRY, THEY LOOK JUST LIKE ORDINARY FISH.
THE MERMAIDS DON'T THINK...
...THEY ARE ALIKE AT ALL.
AH...
GOPO (BLUB)
GASHI (GRAB)

WHY DO THEY GET BIGGER?
THE AIR CONCEN-TRATION OF MANA, MAYBE?
WATER SPIRIT COLONIES THAT ARE LARGE ENOUGH TO [redacted] ARE CALLED UNDINES.
UNDINES
...YOU NEED TO CONSUME THINGS THAT ARE RICH [redacted] MANA...
...BUT THE AMOUNT OF MANA THAT CREATURES CAN STORE IS LIMITED.
TO ABSORB THEM IN A SHORT TIME...
HERE TOO.
AND HERE.
LIKE HERE.
HERE.
MANA AND SPIRITS ARE EVERY-WHERE...
...AND EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST LIVING NORMALLY, THEY GET [redacted] YOU.
1. ELF
2. GNOME
3. TA
PARENTHETI-CALLY, ELVES HAVE THE HIGHEST LIMIT OF ALL HUMAN RACES.
AT THE OTHER END, THERE'S ...
IT'S ELIMI-NATED.
JUST LIKE WATER.
WHAT HAPPENS TO MANA THAT'S OVER THE LIMIT?
AS MUCH MANA AS 1,000 LEMONS!
DUE TO THEIR INCREDIBLY HIGH LIMIT, MANDRAKES ARE VERY CONVENIENT.
OOGH...
MEANWHILE, NAMARI...
THE TELE-PORTATION SICKNESS...
...WENT STRAIGHT TO MY GUT...
SO WHAT...
ARE THOSE RICH IN MANA?
I'M SO GASSY.
...IF THEY ARE!?
BUU (FRRR?)
ブー

THEY DON'T FEAR CREATURES THAT ARE BIGGER THAN THEY ARE...
...AND THEY SOMETIMES HUNT DRAGONS AS A PACK.


VELVETY COATED AND COOPERATIVE, THEY TRAVEL IN PACKS.
THEY HAVE FIERCE, CUNNING NATURES.

WARGS

THEY COULDN'T TAKE THEM WHEN THEY EVACUATED.
POOR THINGS.

YOU SEE THEM WITH ORCS A LOT, DON'T YOU?
MAYBE THE DEAD ONES BELONGED TO THE VILLAGE.
DON'T BRING THAT TO THE DINNER TABLE!

I'M SAD ■ ONLY GOT TO ■ THEIR CORPSES.
THEY'RE ONE OF MY FAVORITE MONSTER SPECIES.

ABOUT THAT.
LISTEN TO ME!
I HEARD THEY NEVER WARM UP TO HUMANS.

THEY STAYED AND FOUGHT THE DRAGON OF THEIR ■ FREE WILL.
DON'T PUT IT ON THE TABLE!
GOTO CTUNKO
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
ORCS AND WARGS AREN'T MASTERS AND SERVANTS. THEY COEXIST.

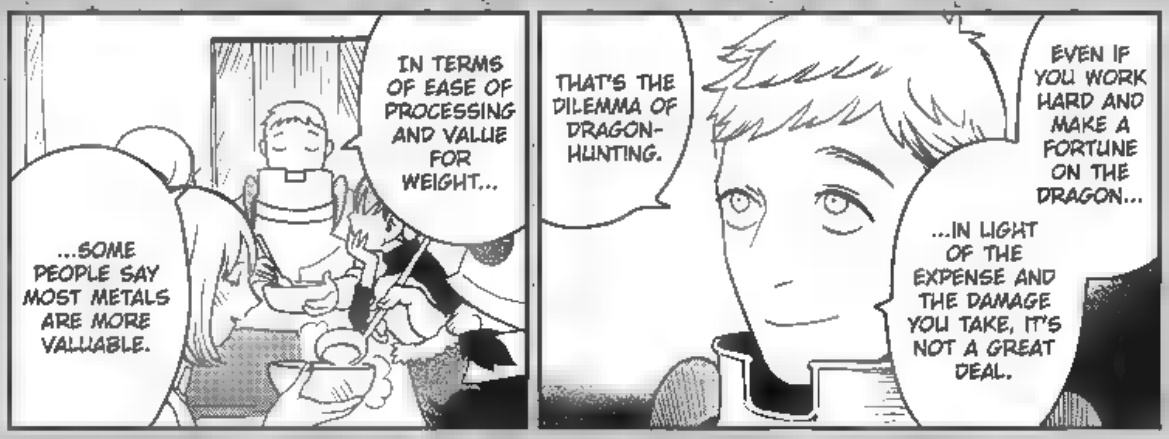
ASK HIM IF HE THINKS ■ GUY WHO CAN'T GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE COULD GET ALONG WITH MONSTERS.
JUST TO SEE.

...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH A WARG!

I WAS THINKING. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND AN ORC ARE OUR NUMBER OF FINGERS AND TOES AND OUR BODY ODORS.
IN OTHER WORDS, IF I COULD MIMIC THAT ODOR WITH COLOGNE OR SOMETHING...

DRAGONS!!
THEY STAND ABOVE ALL OTHER CREATURES.
THOSE WHO DEFEAT A DRAGON WIN FAME AND IMMENSE WEALTH.
... PROVIDED THEY MANAGE TO TAKE IT BACK WITH THEM.
RED DRAGONS

IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT WHEN HUNTING DRAGONS, MORE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT IS TRANSPORTATION GEAR THAN WEAPONS.
IN ORDER TO TRANSPORT THE BODY WITHOUT DAMAGING IT, YOU NEED LOTS OF TOOLS.
THEN THERE'S THE PEOPLE TO CARRY THEM...
THE FOOD TO KEEP THEM FED...
THE CAPITAL TO GET ALL OF THOSE THINGS...
.....


EVEN IF YOU WORK HARD AND MAKE A FORTUNE ON THE DRAGON...
...IN LIGHT OF THE EXPENSE AND THE DAMAGE YOU TAKE, IT'S NOT A GREAT DEAL.
THAT'S THE DILEMMA OF DRAGON-HUNTING.
IN TERMS OF EASE OF PROCESSING AND VALUE FOR WEIGHT...
...SOME PEOPLE SAY MOST METALS ARE MORE VALUABLE.

STILL, THERE ARE MANY DRAGON LEGENDS AND TALES...
...SPECIALTY PRODUCTS AND TOURIST SPOTS.
BIG SELLER!
DRAGON MANJU
WHEN YOU THINK OF THAT ECONOMIC EFFECT...
...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE A BLANKET VALUE FOR DRAGONS.
.....
.....

WELL, I...
UH...
WHERE'S YOUR ENTHUSIASM? DO YOU EVEN LIKE DRAGONS?
EVEN I ALREADY KNEW THAT MUCH.
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?
HUH? THAT'S IT?
HUH?
...FROM A SINGLE TONGUING SOUND.
IT'S AN INDUSTRY WHERE YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT...
...IF YOU CAN'T TELL THE SPECIES, GENDER, AGE, AND HABITAT...
DRAGONS REALLY ARE SPECIAL IN THESE PARTS.
"THESE PARTS"?
DO (WHUD)
I DO LIKE DRAGONS TOO...
...I CAN'T STAND MY OWN LACK OF COMMIT-MENT!
...BUT WHEN I SEE REAL DRAGON FANS...
WAIT, WALKING MUSH-ROOMS ARE THAT POPULAR !?
THEY SAY THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION IS ON PAR WITH WALKING MUSHROOMS.
THERE ARE MANY RESEARCHERS. LOTS OF THEORIES ARE PUBLISHED AND REVISED EVERY YEAR.
I SHOULD NOT HAVE ASKED.
...DO LIKE DRA-GONS.
I REALLY ...
HEH...
STILL, WHEN I FIGHT THE REAL THING, MY HEART RACES.
BECAUSE I KNOW THESE FEELINGS ARE GENUINE.
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN JUST SEEING THE WORD "DRAGON" HURT.

# 4

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book [redacted] a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents [redacted] the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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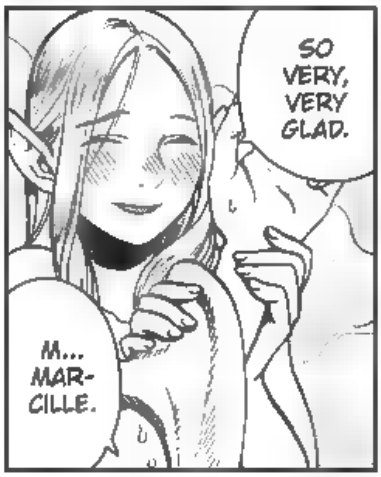
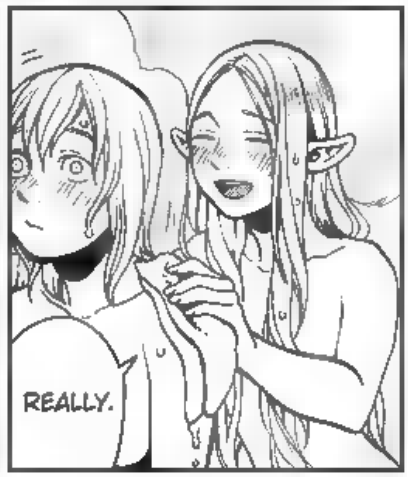
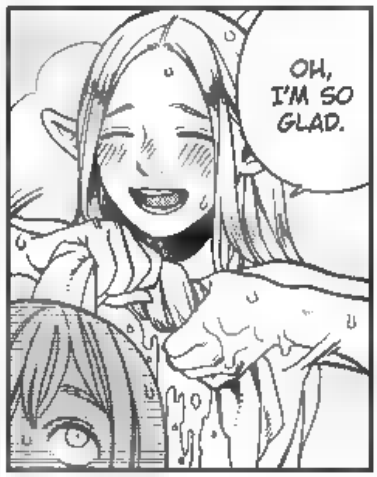
# 28. Red Dragon VI

AHHHH!


SO VERY, VERY GLAD.
M... MAR-CILLE.


REALLY.

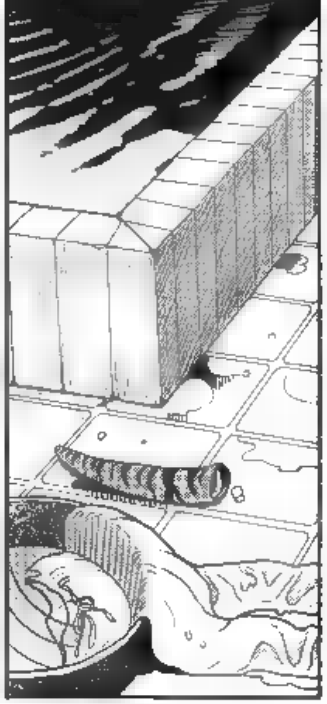

OH, I'M SO GLAD.

THAT TICKLES!
BASHA (SPLASH)

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOUR SKIN REGENERATED PROPERLY.
I CAN WASH MYSELF.

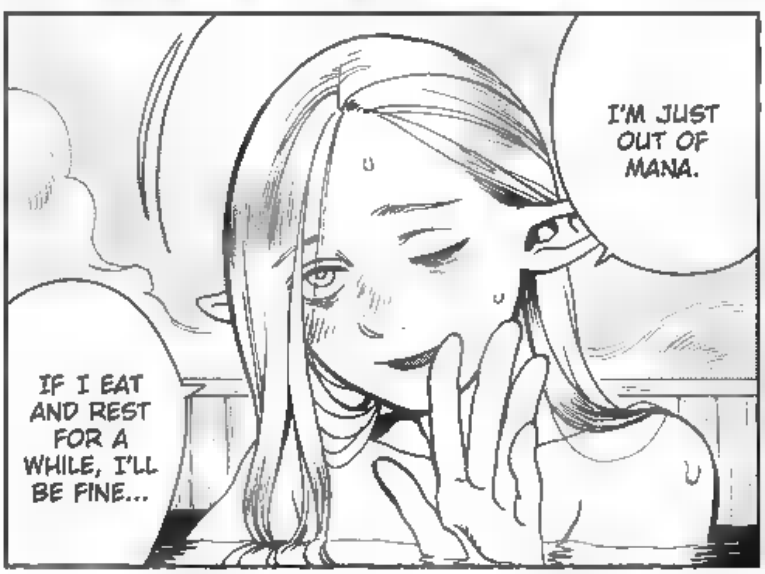
AH!?

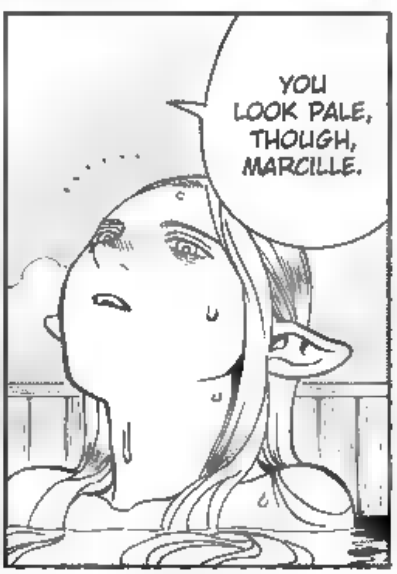
MM-HMM.
MM-HMM.



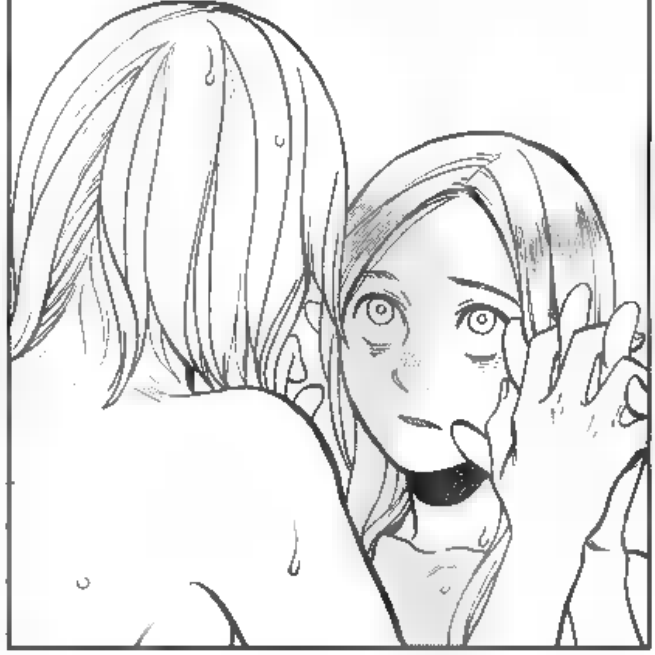
CHAPLIN (SPLISH)
OH, IS THAT ALL?

THERE'S A MARK HERE!!
TH-THAT'S FROM WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
I FELL AND BANGED IT ON THE STAIRS.


I'M JUST OUT OF MANA.
IF I EAT AND REST FOR A WHILE, I'LL BE FINE...


YOU LOOK PALE, THOUGH, MARCILLE.

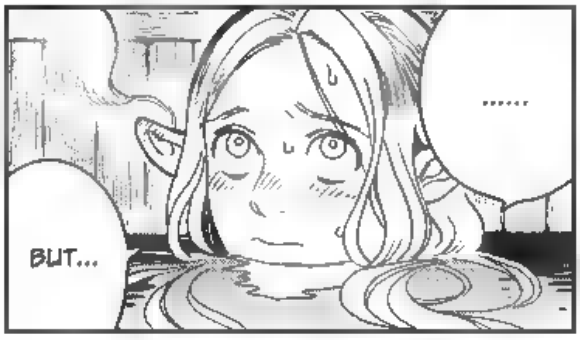
JIWA (WARM)

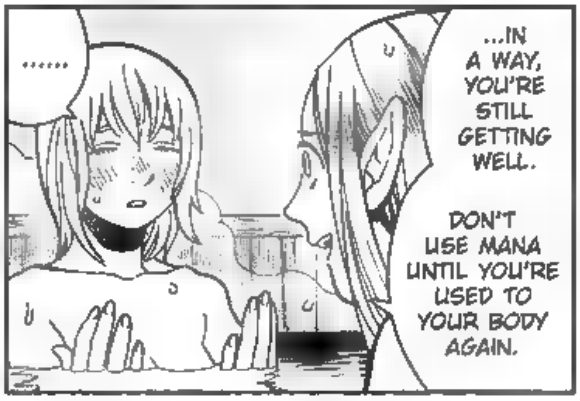


THAT STARTLED ME.
OH NO, NO.
YOU CAN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO SHARE.

I THOUGHT I'D SHARE SOME OF MY MANA WITH YOU...

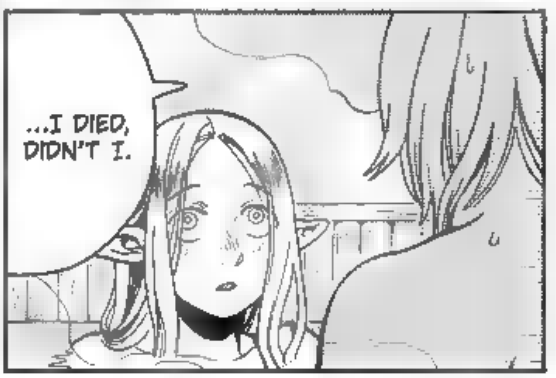
WAGH!!
BASHA (SPLASH)
WHAT WAS THAT!?

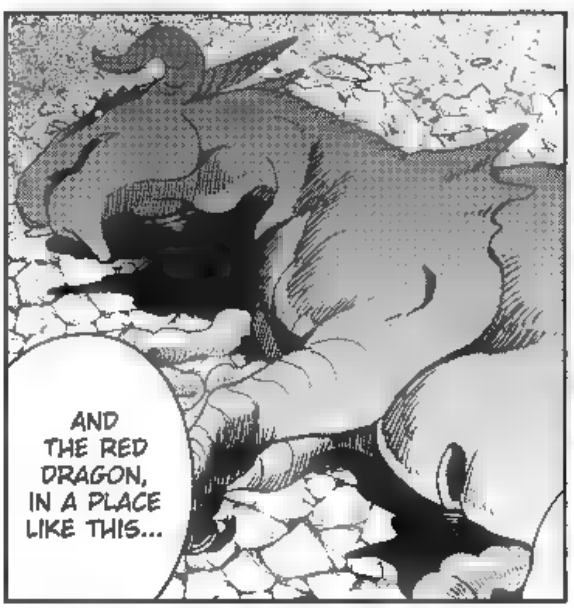

.....
BUT...


.....
...IN A WAY, YOU'RE STILL GETTING WELL.
DON'T USE MANA UNTIL YOU'RE USED TO YOUR BODY AGAIN.

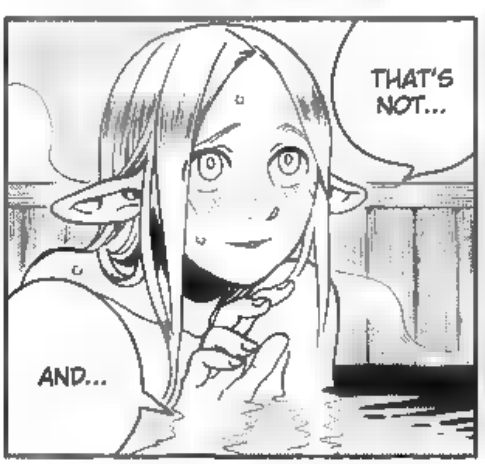
NO, I FEEL REALLY GOOD SOMEHOW.
IT'S AS IF STRENGTH IS FILLING ME.

I DON'T REMEMBER IT VERY WELL.
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?

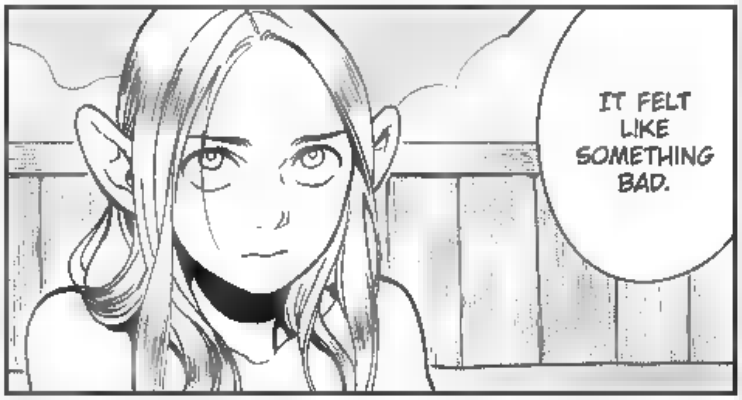

...I DIED, DIDN'T I.

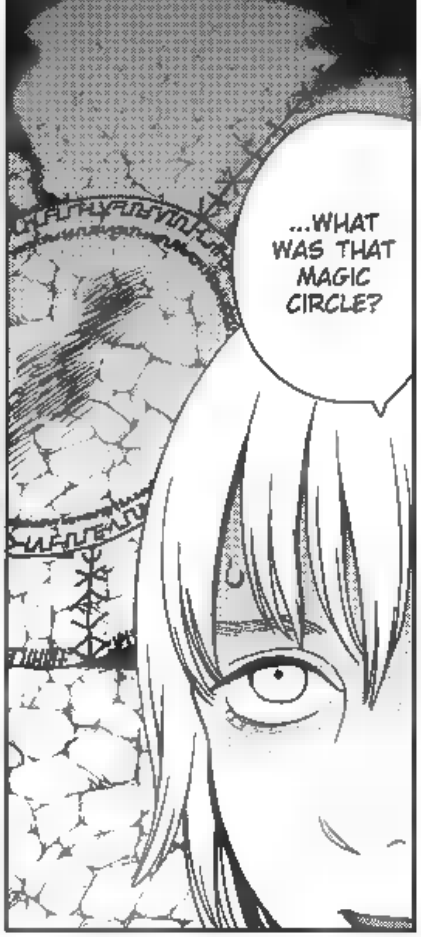

AND THE RED DRAGON, IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

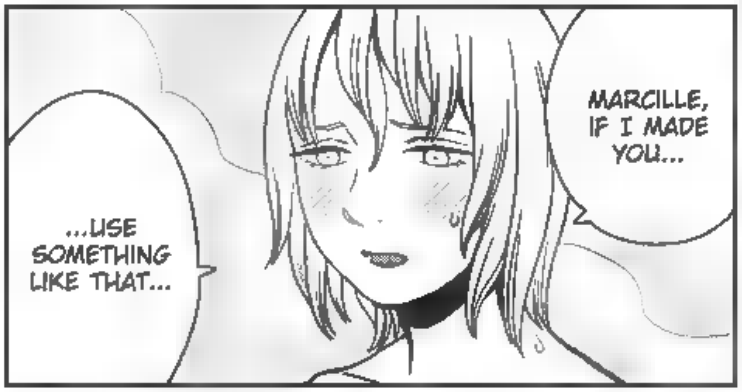
YOU'RE ALL COVERED IN CUTS AND BRUISES.


THAT'S NOT...
AND...

ARE NAMARI AND SHURO OKAY?
IF I MADE YOU PUSH YOURSELVES TOO HARD, THEN...

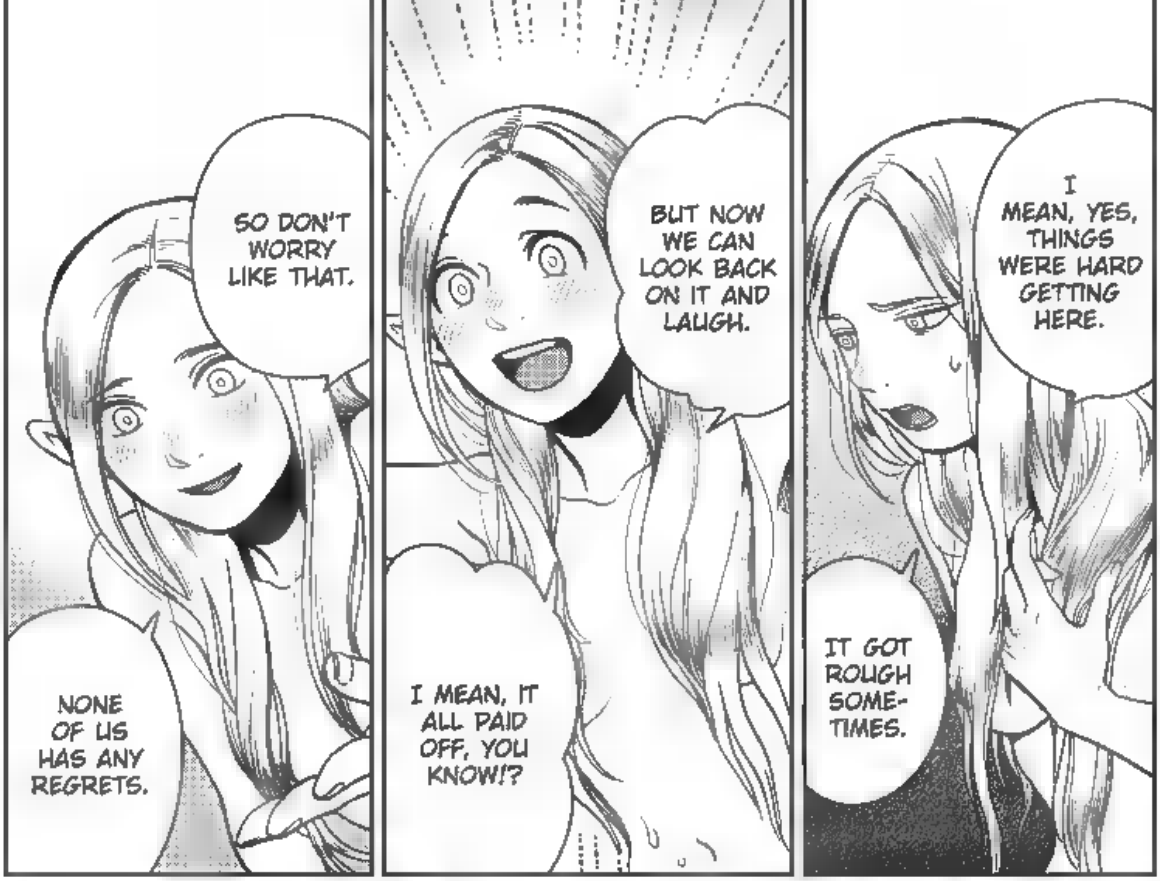

IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING BAD.


...WHAT WAS THAT MAGIC CIRCLE?


MARCILLE, IF I MADE YOU...
...USE SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

BASHA (SPLASH)

IT'S FINE!!


SO DON'T WORRY LIKE THAT.
NONE OF US HAS ANY REGRETS.
BUT NOW WE CAN LOOK BACK ON IT AND LAUGH.
I MEAN, IT ALL PAID OFF, YOU KNOW!?
I MEAN, YES, THINGS WERE HARD GETTING HERE.
IT GOT ROUGH SOME-TIMES.

AND WE'LL ERASE THAT MAGIC CIRCLE. IT'LL BE FINE.
BOSO (MUTTER)

IT STUCK TO HER CLOTHES.
I SWEAR. IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT FROG...
FROG?
AH!
OH! WHAT WILL WE DO FOR YOUR CLOTHES !?
I HAVE TO WASH AND DRY MINE TOO.
NOW THE ONLY ISSUE IS HOW TO GET HOME...

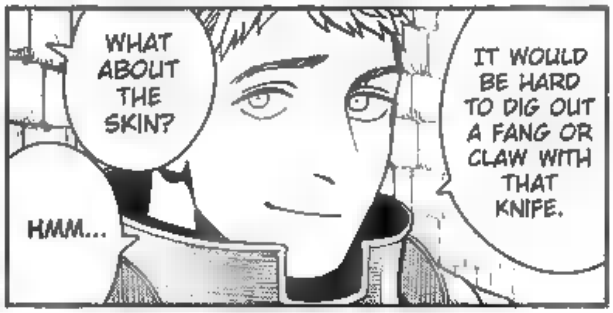
THEY SAY THE PLACE WAS MADE FROM A MIX OF DWARF AND ELF TECHNOLOGY.
THEY PROBABLY LIVED BETTER THAN WE DO NOW.
KAPOOON! (SPLISH)
...ARE IN A HUMAN TOWN FROM A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
BORI (SCRITCH)
BORI
...IT'S WEIRD TO THINK THAT THESE BATHS...
IF I DRANK NOW, I'D BE UNDER THE TABLE RIGHT AWAY.
WHO COULD GET DRUNK ON THIS STUFF? IT'S LIKE WATER.
ALTHOUGH IF IT CURSES US, WE'RE DONE.
HERE. CELEBRATE A LITTLE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
WE GO BACK UP TOP.
WE CAN'T USE A RETURN SPELL OR THE ORCS' PASSAGE. WE'LL HAVE TO GET BACK INTO THE CASTLE FROM THE HIGH STREET.
NEVER MIND THAT. WHAT NEXT?

...AND THE THIRD IS OFTEN LEFT WITH SOMEONE ABOVE-GROUND.
THE BANK KEEPS ONE PIECE. YOU CARRY ANOTHER...
BANK TOKEN
HAS A PICTURE BASED ON YOUR FINGER-PRINT
BUT NO TOKEN.
IT'LL TAKE A MONTH TO GET THAT REISSUED.
THAT'S TRUE.

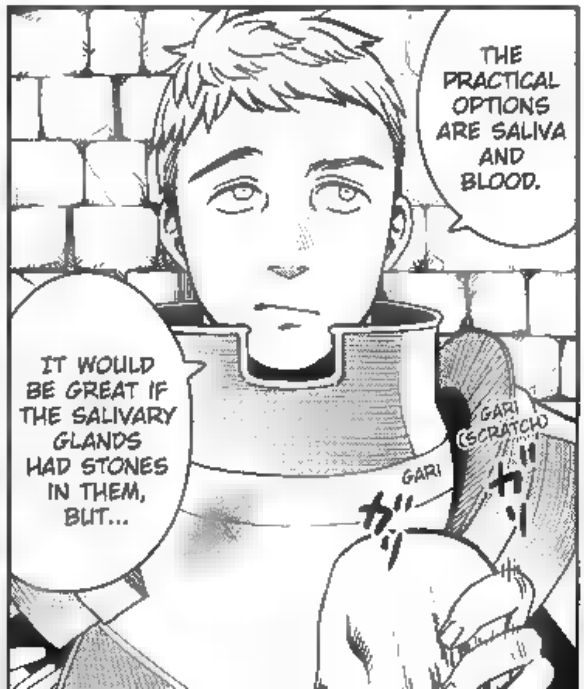
WE MAY HAVE SAVED YOUR SISTER, BUT WE'RE STILL FLAT BROKE.
I DO HAVE SOME SAVINGS IN THE BANK.

LIVER
EYE
FANG
CLAW
HUMAN
UNDAMAGED, BIGGER PIECES OF ANY BIT SELL FOR MORE.
WE COULDN'T CARRY ENOUGH TO TURN A GOOD PROFIT.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SELL, YOU'LL HAVE MONEY TO SPARE.
TAKE SOMETHING BACK AND SELL IT.
"THERE'S NO DRECK IN A DRAGON."

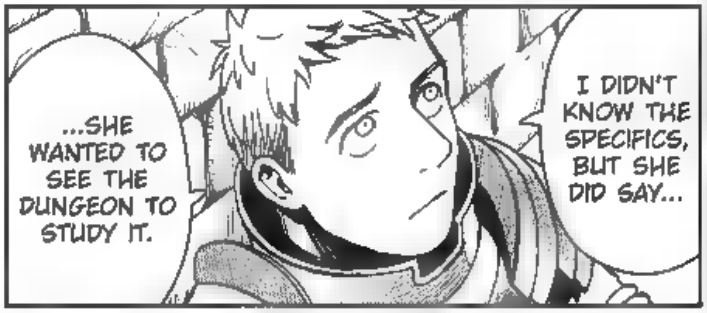

WHAT ABOUT THE SKIN?
HMM...
IT WOULD BE HARD TO DIG OUT A FANG OR CLAW WITH THAT KNIFE.

AMBER-GRIS, HUH?
THAT STUFF STINKS.


THE PRACTICAL OPTIONS ARE SALIVA AND BLOOD.
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THE SALIVARY GLANDS HAD STONES IN THEM, BUT...
GARI
GARI (SCRATCH)

LAIOS, DID YOU KNOW...
...THAT SHE USED BLACK MAGIC?

STILL, THAT MARCILLE...


I DIDN'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS, BUT SHE DID SAY...
...SHE WANTED TO SEE THE DUNGEON TO STUDY IT.

SHE'D BETTER NOT BE ONE OF THOSE DARK ELVES.
I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.

I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD.
AN ELF WITH A PRETTY COMFORT-ABLE LIFE GOING INTO THE DUN-GEON...

W-WELL, IF IT WERE HARMLESS, THEY WOULDN'T BAN IT, RIGHT?
WANT TO WEAR THIS?

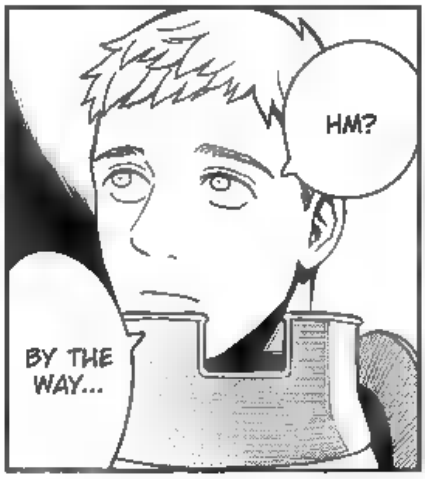
WHO'S A DARK ELF?
WAAAUGH!

I'M RESEARCHING WAYS THAT FORBIDDEN MAGIC CAN BE USEFUL TO PEOPLE.
I HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

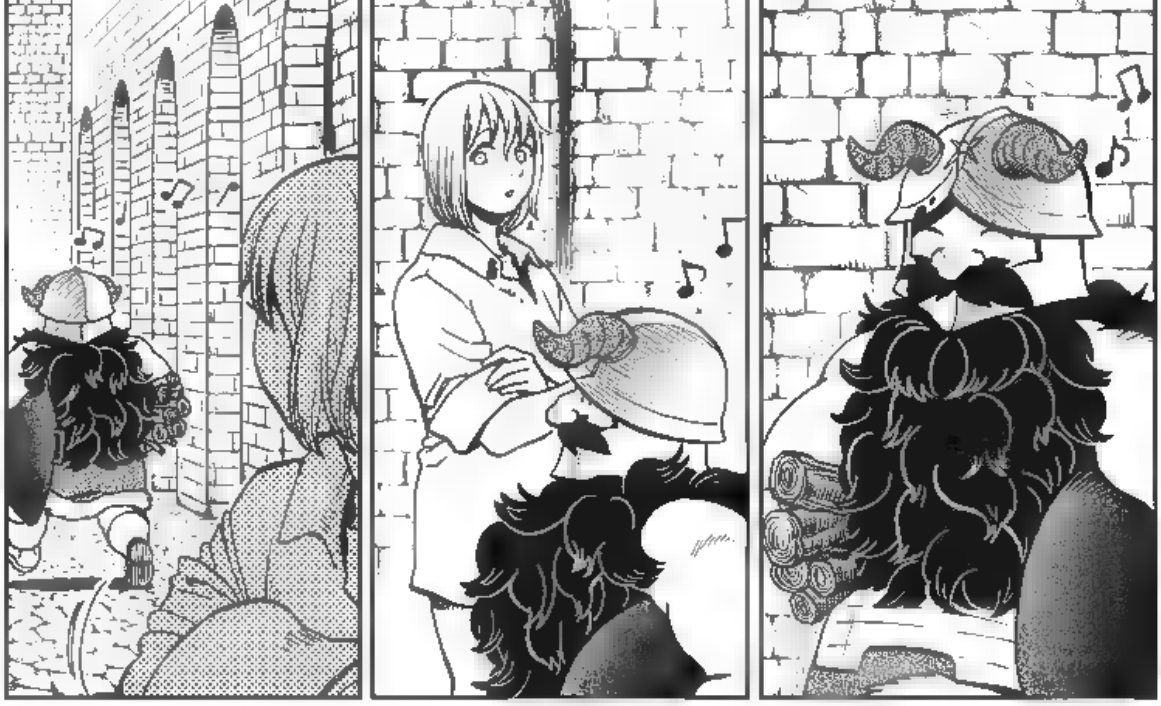
HARM-LESS? EVEN HEALING MAGIC CAN BE USED IN TORTURE.
JUST LIKE A KNIFE, IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU USE IT.

BUT IT'S IN ALL OUR BEST INTER-ESTS...
...IF YOU FORGET ABOUT THAT RES-URRECTION METHOD. THANKS.
SEE, THAT SOUNDS LIKE SHAME RIGHT THERE!!

WHOA...


HM?
BY THE WAY...

WELL, NEVER MIND.
AND WHAT'S A DARK ELF ANYWAY!?
IT'S ALL OVER AND DONE WITH.



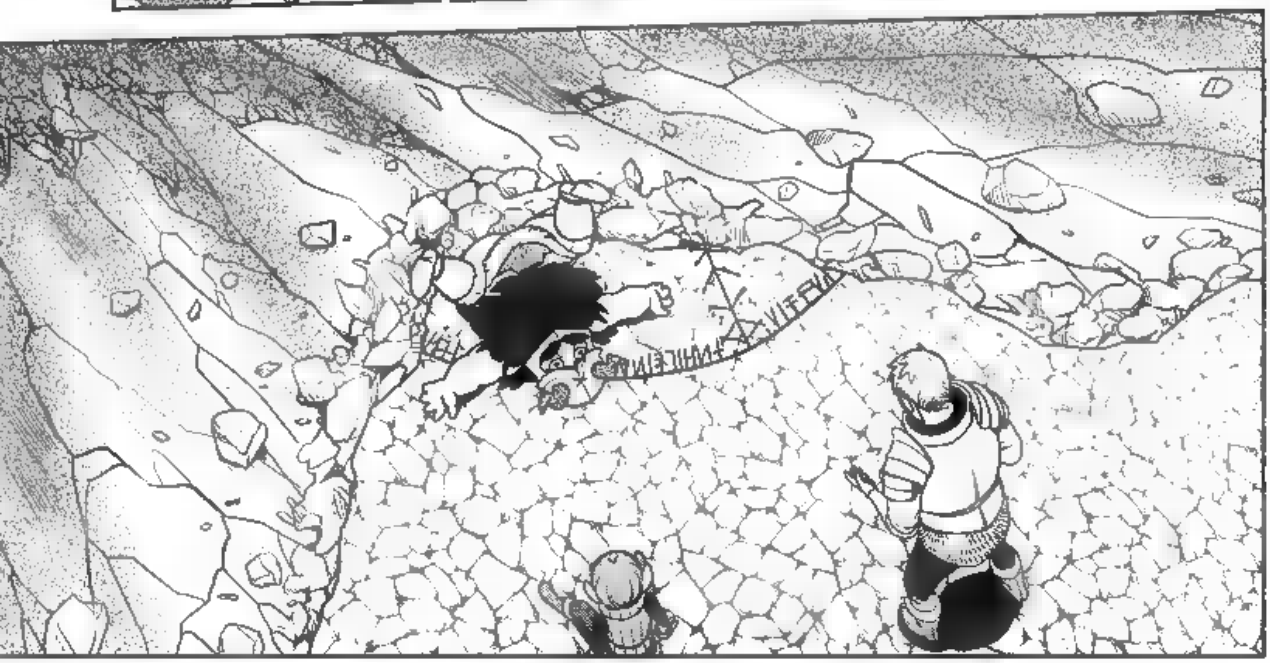
SEE? HE'S GOING TO COOK.
JUST NOW...
...MR. WARRIOR PASSED BY WITH A POT AND FIRE-WOOD.
... WHERE'S SENSHI?
CARVING UP THE DRAGON, I BET.

さ
SAA (PALE)
COOK...
...RIGHT BY THE DRAGON?

IF HE STARTS A FIRE OVER THERE NOW...
WHAT ON EARTH...?
WE OPENED THE DRA-GON'S FUEL SAC.
OH CRAP, OH CRAP, OH CRAP!!
SENSHI !!
SEN-SHI, STOP !!
KAN (CLACK)
KAN

DODOOOO
(KABOOOM)
GHK!

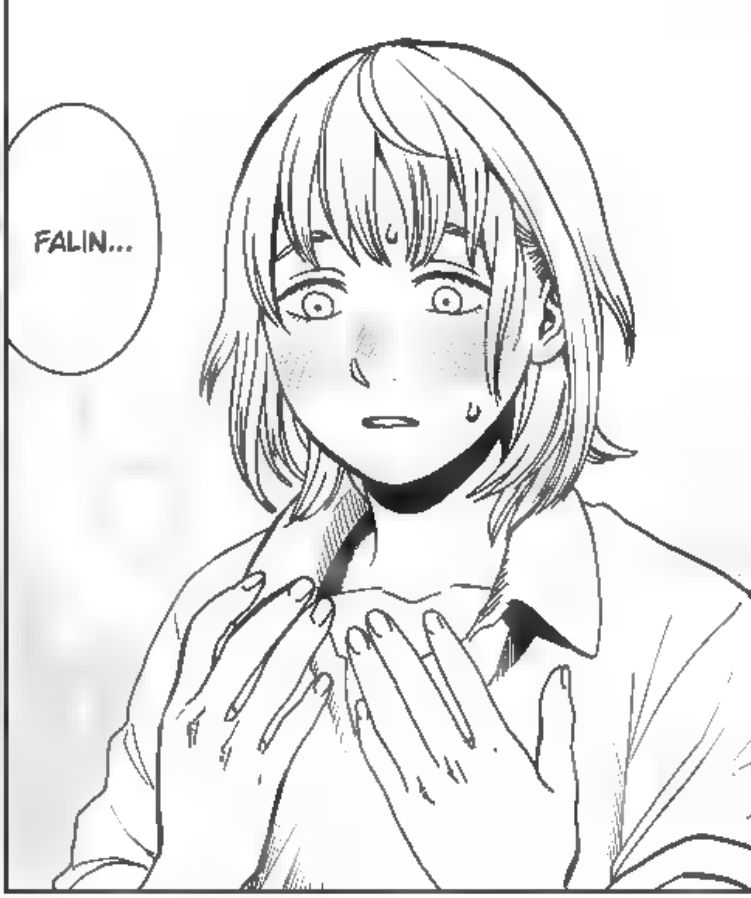
!!



THIS IS...
...A DE-FENSE SPELL ?

WE...
WE'RE ALIVE...

YOU DID THAT?

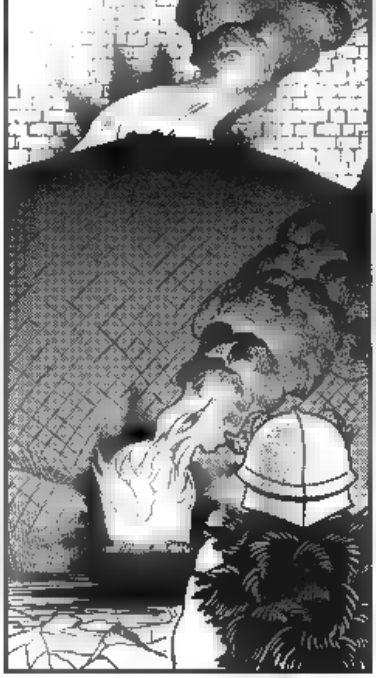

FALIN...

I DON'T KNOW.
I THOUGHT, "I HAVE TO PROTECT THEM," AND THEN...

THAT FAST?
I GUESS SO.
WITH NO CHANT?
PETA (PAT)
PETA

A-ANYWAY, YOU'VE JUST REVIVED.
WISH WE'D HAD THAT WHEN WE FOUGHT THE DRAGON.
DON'T USE ANY MORE MANA!

WOW.
DOKI
DOKI (BADMP)
WHAT WAS THAT? HYSTERICAL STRENGTH?



I TOLD YOU, DRAGONS BREATHE FIRE USING FUEL THEY MAKE.
THAT FUEL IGNITED.

THAT STAR-TLED ME.

...BUT UNTIL IT DOES, WE CAN'T TAKE MEAT FROM THE INSIDE.
HMM. THAT'S NO GOOD.

THE FIRE'S NOT GOING OUT.
ゴオオオ
GOOO (FWOOSH)
THE OIL IN ITS BODY IS BURNING.
IT'LL DIE DOWN EVENTU-ALLY...

WHY DON'T WE COOK WITH THIS?

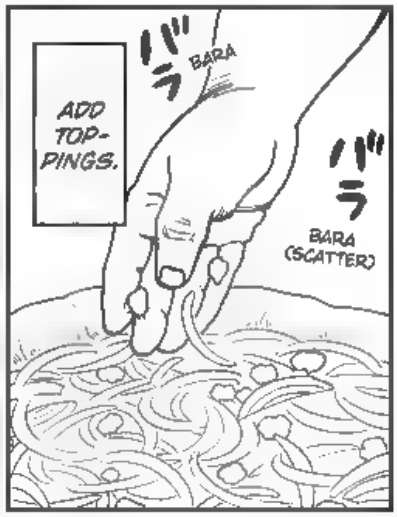
STRETCH OUT AND SHAPE.

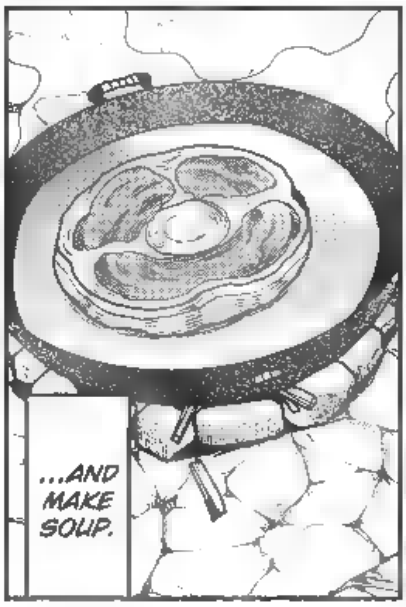
WHILE IT DOES, GO TAKE A BATH.
LET REST.

GU (KNEAD)
GU
MIX WHEAT, YEAST, SALT, AND WATER. KNEAD WELL.

...PUT IT IN THE DRAG-ON.

DUST DRAGON SKIN WITH FLOUR, AND...
PAN (PAT)


ADD TOP-PINGS.
BARA
BARA (SCATTER)


...AND MAKE SOUP.

SKIN IT...

CUT OFF THE TIP OF THE TAIL.
AAAAH! WHAT A WASTE!

MM-HM, MM-HM.
THE FIRE'S DIED DOWN A BIT.
FURTHER INSIDE MIGHT BE BETTER.
... MARI-NATE IT.
ONCE YOU SEAR THE SURFACE ON HOT SCALES ...
JYUAAA (SIZZZZ)
GYUMU (PUSH)
ギュム
ギュム
GYUMU

ROAST RED DRAGON

Ingredients
Block of red dragon meat—1 kg
Wine—50 ml
Salt and pepper—To taste

IT'S DONE!!

ONION FLATBREAD

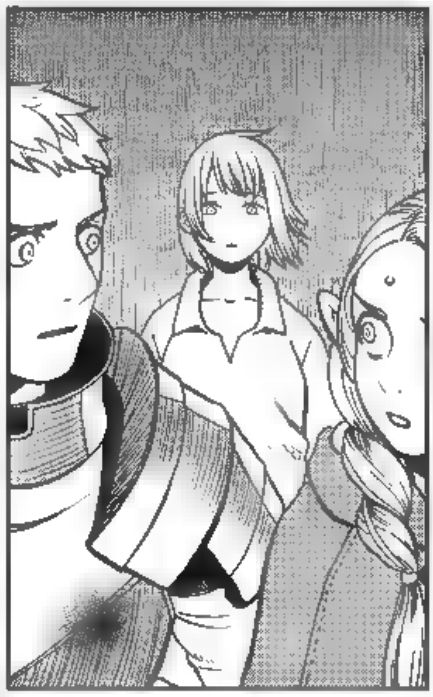
Ingredients
Pizza dough
Onions—2
Cheese—As much as you like

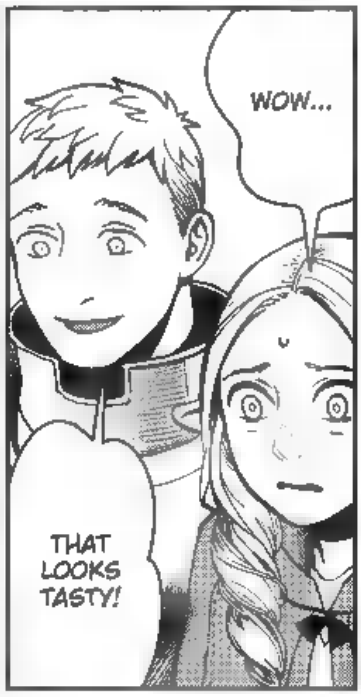
DRAGON TAIL SOUP

Ingredients
Red dragon tail—1 kg
Onion—1
Turnips—5
Salt and pepper—To taste

IF YOU PUT THE MEAT ON THE BREAD, IT'LL TASTE GOOD.

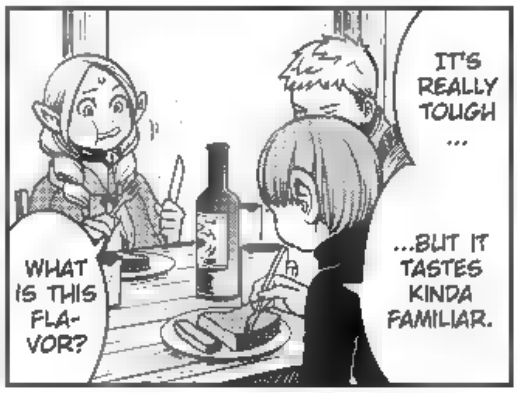
ENERGY
VITAMINS
CARBS
CALCIUM
PROTEIN
IRON
FAT





もぐ
MOGU (CHEW)
もぐっ
MOGU
むぐ
むぐ
GUMU (NOM)
GUMU
AAAAH...
ごくり
GOKURI (GULP)
IT'S DELICIOUS!
SHE'S HERE NOW, AND SHE'S JUST FINE.
I GUESS IT'S OKAY.
.....
I BET IT DOES.
EAT UP. TAKE IT ALL BACK.
IT FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T EATEN IN A LONG TIME.

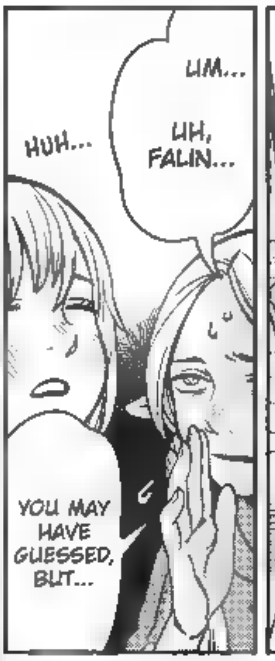
SFX: GUMU (CHEW) GUMU

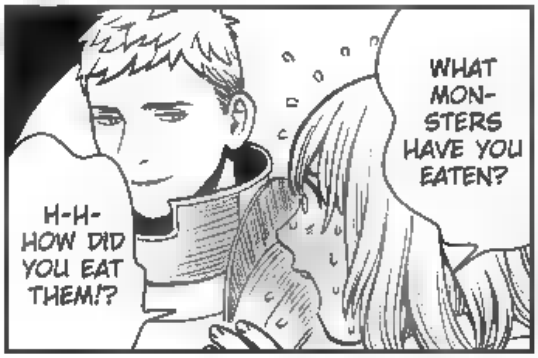


THE AROMA.
THE RICH FLAVOR.
THE RED COLOR.
THEY'RE ALL ONE OF A KIND.
THE FIRM TEX-TURE.
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE SAYING?

THIS...
...TASTES LIKE DRAGON.
AND ANYWAY, WHY DESCRIBE THE FLAVOR OF DRAGON USING SOME OTHER CREATURE!?

ZUBA (BLUNT)
WE DIDN'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO BUY FOOD, SO WE'VE BEEN EATING MONSTERS THE WHOLE TRIP.
WAUGH!

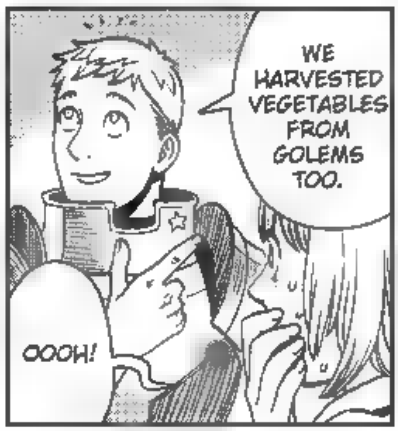

UM...
HUH...
UH, FALIN...
YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED, BUT...


WHAT MON-STERS HAVE YOU EATEN?
H-H-HOW DID YOU EAT THEM!?

WOW!
OH, WOW! WOW! WOW!!

WASTED WORRY, HUH?
NO, THIS IS WHAT I DIDN'T WANT!

WHAT ABOUT FISH-MEN?
WE DIDN'T EAT THOSE.


WE HARVESTED VEGETABLES FROM GOLEMS TOO.
OOOH!

FIRST WAS GIANT SCORPION AND SLIME.
WHOA ...

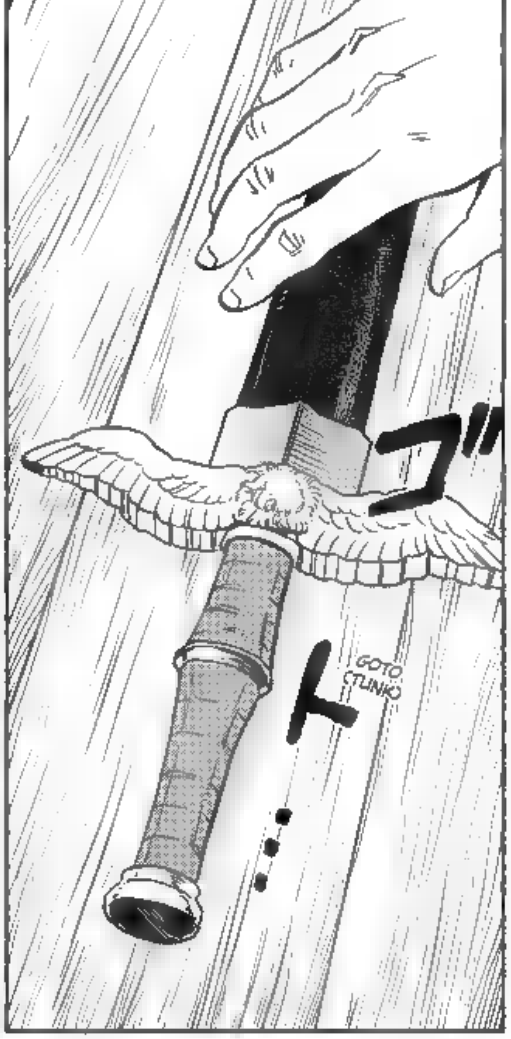
WOULDN'T IT BE FASTER TO SHOW HER THE REAL THING?

WE ATE LIVING ARMOR, THOUGH.
WHAT PART!?
HUH!?

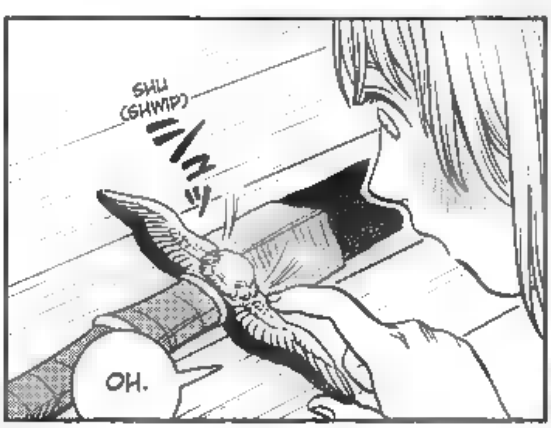
UH...
THEY'RE ACTUALLY COLONIES ...
...OF SHELLED MOLLUSKS, AND...
UM...

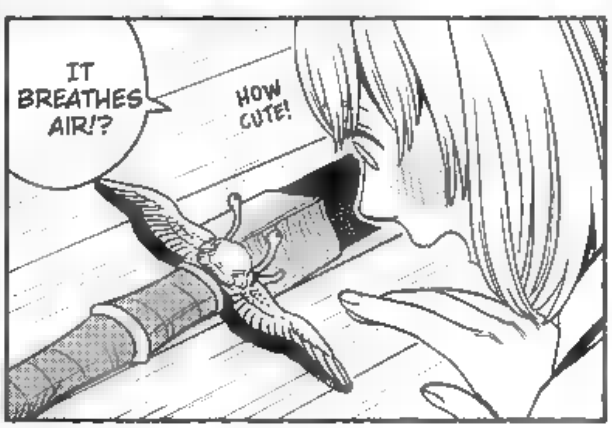
HUH?
WHAT?
.....?
SHH.

NYU
(WOOP)


GOTO
(TUNK)

I'M SOWWY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING!?
WHY!?


SHU
(SHWIP)
OH.


IT BREATHES AIR!?
HOW CUTE!

BYOOON (BOING)
ゴッーン
ACK!

IT WENT BACK IN.

TREASURE INSECT!
AH!
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU WERE ODDLY SHARP.
YOU SHOULD'VE HAD NAMARI APPRAISE IT FOR YOU.
TENTA-CLEG.

SORRY.
I WAS ONLY GOING TO USE IT UNTIL I FOUND ANOTHER WEAPON, BUT...
...THE WAY IT REACTED TO MON-STERS WAS HANDY, SO...

IT MOVES ON ITS OWN.
GIVE ME A BREAK ...

I WAS CARE-LESS.
I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

THAT'S NOT A CALL TO MAKE ON YOUR OWN, THOUGH.
LOSE THE GROUP'S TRUST, AND YOU'VE LOST EVERY-THING.

UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES...
...I THINK YOU DID HAVE TO USE IT.

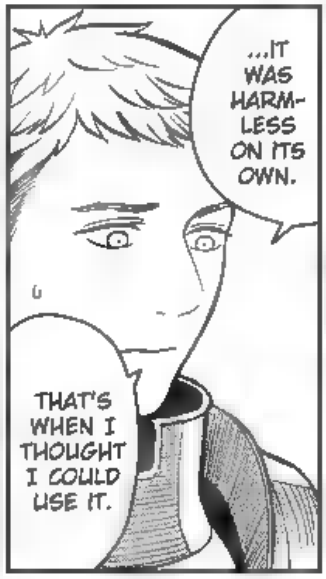
LET'S NOT, OKAY?
WE'LL JUST KEEP AN EYE ON IT.

I CAN'T GET IT OUT WITHOUT TAKING THE SWORD APART, SO IT'LL PROBABLY ROT IN THERE.

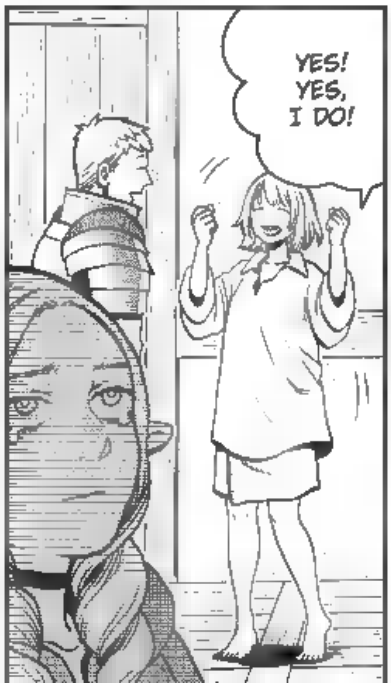
AND? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

I'D LIKE TO USE THIS UNTIL I HAVE ANOTHER WEAPON.
BUT...
...I COULD DROWN IT.

I GUESS IT REALLY IS NO GOOD, THOUGH.
MONSTERS CAN'T BE USED WHILE THEY'RE ALIVE.


...IT WAS HARMLESS ON ITS OWN.
THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD USE IT.

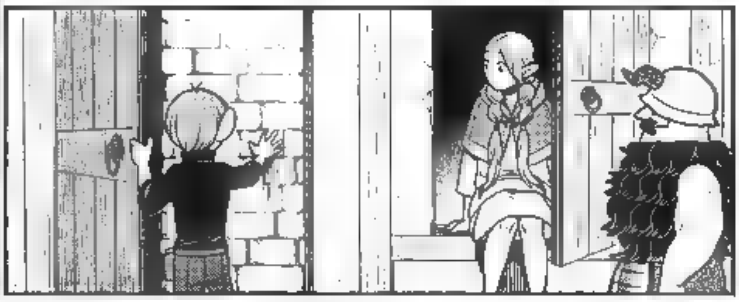
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID MONSTERS WERE DANGEROUS.
AND I HADN'T FORGOTTEN THAT, BUT I THOUGHT ...

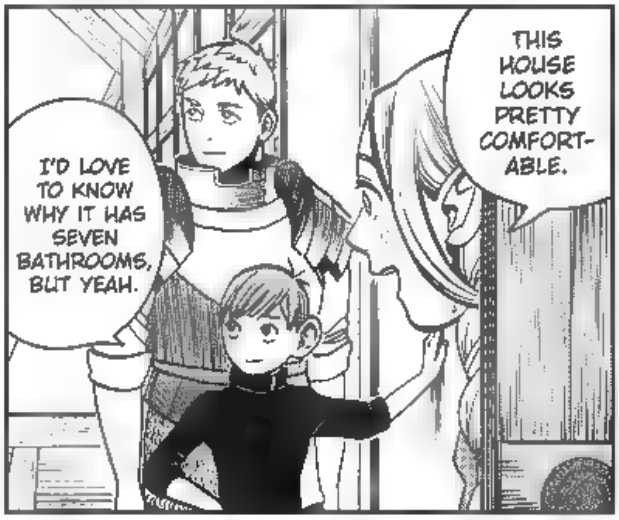

YES! YES, I DO!

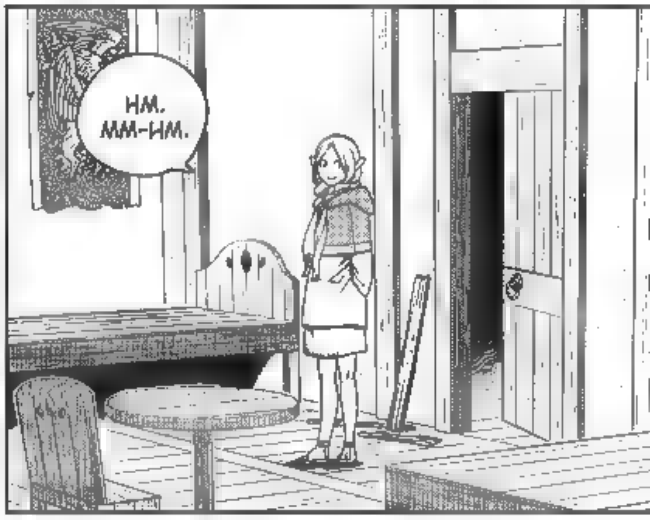
WHAT DO THEY TASTE LIKE?
WANT TO EAT IT?

!!
?
JII (STARE)

DOORS ALL OVER, BUT ONLY TWO GO OUTSIDE, HUH?
NO RISK OF SNEAK ATTACKS, THEN.




THIS HOUSE LOOKS PRETTY COMFORT-ABLE.
I'D LOVE TO KNOW WHY IT HAS SEVEN BATHROOMS, BUT YEAH.


HM. MM-HM.

HOO-RAY!
YOU'LL STILL BE IN YOUR SLEEPING BAG, Y'KNOW.
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I SLEPT IN A REAL BED.

OKAY.
LET'S SLEEP HERE.

I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE LIKE THIS.
WE'LL JUST REST A BIT, AND THEN WE'LL GO.
I SEE.
THAT'S KIND OF HER.
WHAT IS IT?
A RESIDENT. SHE SAYS WE CAN STAY.

WE'RE SHORT ON SLEEPING BAGS. WE'LL NEED TO BUNK TOGETHER ON THE WAY HOME.
WE HAVEN'T SLEPT IN THE SAME BED SINCE WE WERE AT SCHOOL.
BAFU (FWUMP)
OH, GET OVER YOURSELF!
YOU'RE STILL JUST A LITTLE KID TO ME.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
I WONDER IF I'LL FIT.
I'M A LOT BIGGER THAN I WAS THEN.
I'LL GO TALK TO MY BROTHER BEFORE I SLEEP.
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
SAME HERE.

BROTH-
ER.

GARI
(SCRATCH)
GARI

GOSHI
(RUB)
GOSHI

SUU
(SNIF)

FALIN.

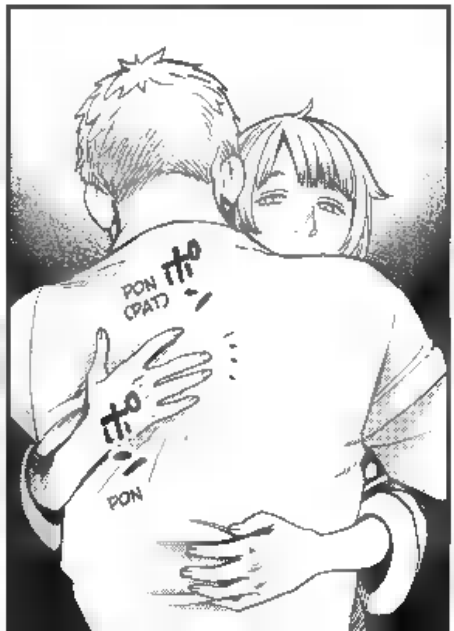
GUSHA
GUSHA
(MUSS)

THAT
WOUND...
YOU WERE
RECKLESS.
WHY
DID
YOU...?

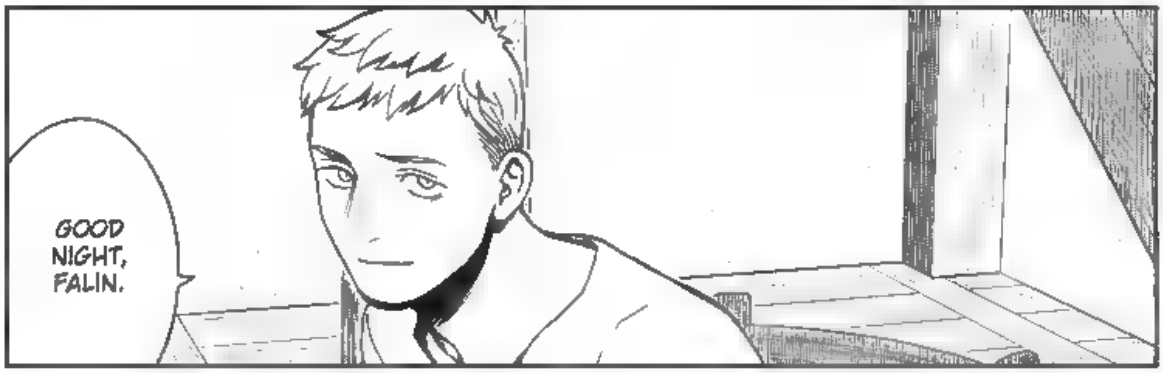
DON'T
YOU EVER
DO THAT
AGAIN.
I DON'T
REMEMBER
WHAT I
DID...

HUH!?
YOU
COULD
EVEN SAY
YOUR
RECK-
LESSNESS
CAUSED
THIS.
JUST
SO YOU
KNOW,
YOU
WERE
RECK-
LESS
FIRST.

I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

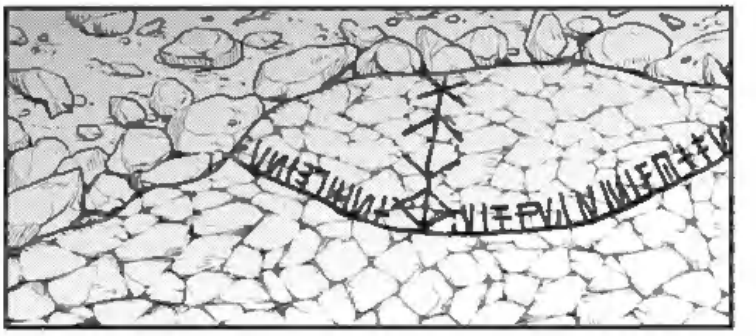

PON (PAT)
PON

GYUU (SQUEEZE)




MESSING UP A MAGICIAN'S HAIR... HONESTLY...

KOTSU
(TAK)



CHAPTER 28: THE END

# Translation Notes

**Page 155**
The Japanese term for "ambergris" literally translates to "dragon drool incense." Ambergris is actually secreted by sperm whales, but in antiquity, it was apparently believed to come from dragons. Although aged ambergris smells good and was commonly used as a perfume fixative, fresh ambergris does smell like sewage.

**Page 158**
In Japanese, Falin hesitantly says "Senshi" with the characters for "warrior," which she isn't sure is correct. She may have confused his name for his profession.

*To be continued...*